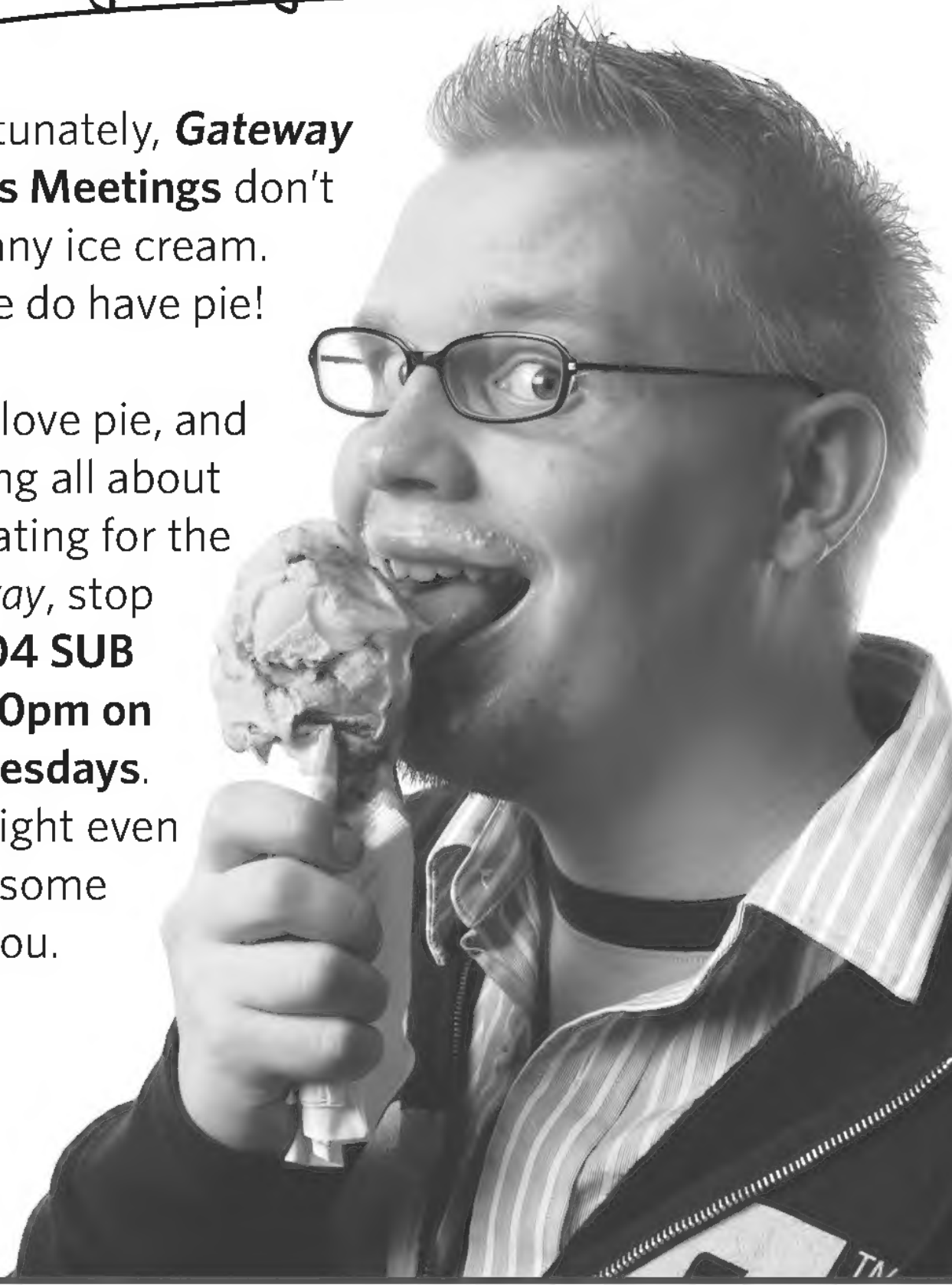


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Debbie Yeung is a Chartered Accountant and graduate of the University of Alberta. She is married with two young children who attend a French Immersion school.

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It's a bird; it's a plane; no, it's the mayor!

The mayoral candidates this year were lackluster, so we dreamt up better ones



OPINION
STAFF

Group
Commentary

As the municipal elections approach and we attempt to force ourselves to gain enough interest to bother voting, we couldn't help but wonder about our "ideal" mayoral candidates.

Some might wish for a wizard who can magic away the problems, while others see this as the perfect opportunity for half-bear, half-machine gun monstrosities to solve our crime rates—and potentially expand the LRT.

Whatever we dream up, the fact remains that we need something fantastic to dig us out of the mess the city's currently stuck in.

Paul Owen

Everyone likes to cheer for the underdog, which is exactly what happened when thousands jumped onto the Stephen Mandel bandwagon three years ago to get him elected. Of course, now that he's in power, he's not exactly a long-shot, but I still think the best mayor for Edmonton is the plucky little guy with more heart than hair who currently occupies City Hall.

It's not that I agree with Mandel's plan to expand the LRT (I do), or to build a new hockey rink (I don't), or even his assimilative opinions towards the outlying communities (as a resident of Sherwood Park, I definitely don't). And, because of the aforementioned suburban syndrome, I don't hate the guy for spending ridiculous amounts of taxpayer money on things. With no real reason to dislike Mandel, I still only have two reasons I think he should run the City for three more years.

The first is that it would be funny to see a mayor win with 90 per cent of the vote, and with the collection of glorified chimpanzees running against him this October, it may actually come out as that big of a landslide.

More importantly though, I enjoy strolling to the door every Thursday, letting the wind ripple my housecoat, and mooning the neighbours as I bend down to pick up the *Sherwood Park News* before opening it up to watch the latest batch of shit being slung between Even Stephen and Strathcona County mayor Cathy Oleson, who also has a very good shot of being re-elected.

Watching these two go at each other is like watching two junior high schoolers work out their sexual tension by pushing each other off the top of the slide. Really, I want to see Mandel elected on the off chance he'll call Oleson a whore while discussing the progress of the Anthony Henday before the two of them undress and get it on.

Victor Vargas

To those who haven't heard of MacGyver, you should know that he's possibly the most intelligent and brilliant fictional dude ever to have existed. With his trusty Swiss army knife, garbage, and string, MacGyver has been able to build flying machines, bombs, and even a radio. A man with such engineering talents is perfect to fix Edmonton's pressing problems.

Right now, all people hear from current candidates is meaningless rhetoric. MacGyver, on the other hand, will take quick and decisive action. He'll utilize a massive recycling program to triple the size of suburbia, dropping housing prices faster than the American dollar. If annoying people complain or try and slow the progress of the LRT, MacGyver will simply recycle their homes and use it to fill the city's many potholes. These people will then be relocated to the new downtown apartment complexes, built out of old trees, that will bring business to downtown that isn't from MacEwan or the Baccarat.

But engineering feats are only a small part of the problem—there's also the rise in crime. Edmonton's fast becoming the Murder Capital of Canada, as well as a haven for drug-dealing pimps—and MacGyver is the only hero capable of defeating crime in the city.

He would be a perfect fit: he interacts well with inner-city youth, and has shown his ability to utterly decimate any criminal organization that has dared stand in his way. A man who can turn an acorn into a land mine is capable of solving any and all crime.

Kelsey Tanasiuk

There's no pride in our taking the title of Murder Capital of Canada from Winnipeg, and I for one highly doubt anyone here would object to us handing it back. We need someone who can rectify this; someone to show our city the shiny golden ropes of safety. So I'm casting my vote for Bert and Gert, the alert twins.

You may remember these stylish rabbits from their catchy slogan, "Stay Alert, Stay Safe," which was followed by a random lightning noise. Or perhaps it's Gert's fabulous early-'90s outfit that really caught your eye. Either way, when these two anthropomorphic rabbits hit your TV screen, you were ready to sit there and learn about safety. I believe Bert and Gert could really turn our city around from being the Murder Capital of Canada—after all, there's no better crime-fighting method than prevention.

See, if no one gets themselves stabbed on Whyte Avenue in the first place, then there's no murder to solve. Bert and Gert aimed to "streetproof" kids with lessons like "trust your gut," "don't go anywhere with strangers," and "it's harder for someone to pick you up if you squirm on the ground like a worm." That's advice anyone could use; isn't it time we "streetproofed" Edmonton?

Lucas Wagner

When it comes to pure decision-making prowess, there's one inanimate object that millions turn to for advice every day: the Magic 8-Ball. And I for one, believe it would make an excellent mayor for our fair city.

The 8-Ball has many electable qualities: it's accessible to the public (just ask it a question, give it a shake, and you'll get its opinion); it's not afraid to make tough decisions (the 8-Ball knows not this "fear" of which you speak); and it knows its limitations ("Cannot predict now"). To prove how qualified the Magic 8-Ball is, I sat with it down for a quick Q&A session:

8-Ball, how do you see Edmonton 20 years from now under its current leadership? "Outlook not so good."

And with your guidance? "Outlook good."

Would you work to lower housing costs for students? "It is decidedly so."

How about rapid transit initiatives such as a western LRT extension? "You may rely on it."

What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow? "Are you kidding?"

Some people might have you believe that the Magic 8-Ball has limitations—such as the inability to answer non-yes-or-no questions—or that it's biased because there's a two-to-one ratio of "yes" answers to "no" answers. These issues are irrelevant, however, because the Magic 8-Ball is magic.

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All logic and no creativity makes campus a dull joint



GRAHAM
LETTNER

The obvious problem with university is that there's too much thinking going on. To start, the number of libraries per capita is completely out of whack. The same goes for whiteboards, overhead projectors, and bubble sheets. The ratio is skewed the opposite way in the outside world, but somehow, here, alongside hyper-caffeination, cramming, and copied PowerPoint slides, this is allowed to exist.

This worries me. Thirty-thousand-plus people thinking non-stop for hours on end can't be healthy. Neither can life in an academic world as one-dimensional as a number line. Over the long haul—say 4–5 years spent in an environment such as this—there have to be adverse affects to the non-rational aptitudes that brains normally have.

From pre-university up until now, it's not hard to spot the degradation. As a youngster, I used to have one helluva imagination—my mom's still got the finger paintings to prove it. As a teenager, I dreamt of hardwood heroics every night after basketball practice. However, these days I don't do much of either. Mostly I read my anatomy notes while running on the treadmill.

Just think for a second that there's more to an education than just thinking. Maybe creativity counts for something, and imagination too, despite being outlawed in most university classes. And let's not forget about our prime decision-making organ: the gut. "You don't

look up truthiness in a book; you look it up in your gut," said Stephen Colbert, who is probably one of the greatest non-thinkers of our time.

"But we're at a *university*," you say, "and this is what universities are supposed to be like." But considering how university is billed as a place where we learn how to make a difference in this big old world of ours, the one-sidedness of it all is borderline delinquent. It's like we've all been sent to robot college to rid us of our human flaws just in time to occupy the next available office cubicle.

Even just a short trip beyond the city limits of pure reason is enough to convince me that there's still plenty left to discover. For one, examined emotions are chock-full of insight. Just one evening spent exploring how crappy it feels when your beau doesn't walk you home to your door, and you'll see what I mean.

First-hand experiences are dense with new knowledge, which is probably why world travellers have a hard time relating where they've been. Intuition and imagination I already mentioned, but memory is another avenue for reflecting on who you've been and what you've done. It isn't something reason can do, but it's surely worthwhile.

If you think this is all irrational nonsense, it may irk you to know that these ideas come from Margaret Somerville, an academic and author who could run logical laps around most of us yet frequently ventures beyond the rigid confines of reason.

So while university will remain fatally flawed for the foreseeable future, it doesn't mean that students have to be as well. Yes, the reality remains that reason is reasonable. But only using the logical side our brains is sort of like driving a car in only one gear. Sure you could do it, but it would be entirely unreasonable.

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Stick it to the man—be obese



CONAL
PIERSE

With Thanksgiving just passed, I'm left with fond memories of family togetherness and the irritable bowel that can only result when one eats enough turkey for six, then chokes back the vomit so that they can have pie. Sure it's hard work, but when you live on your own and you know for a fact that you're out of Chef Boyardee, you've got to eat when you can. Besides, those leftovers would only go to the less fortunate—and I do not support freeloaders.

As I sat there, barely conscious and unable to contribute much to conversation other than the occasional grunt of affirmation, I realized just how hard overeating is. It takes both dedication and gastrointestinal fortitude, whereas choosing not to eat is just lazy.

And if I were ever to protest an injustice, I wouldn't choose a hunger strike because that's the coward's way out. Any schmuck can chain themselves to a bed and say that they aren't going to eat; it takes stronger convictions to sit down at a buffet table and refuse to leave unless things change.

Not only would an obesity strike be just as grotesque, it inevitably has a longer as well as a stronger impact. As a man wastes away from hunger, he becomes weaker and easier to ignore—and if, after a few weeks, nobody intervenes, no more protester. However, a man can live for years on a massive-intake diet, making it the marathon to the hunger strike's sprint. It's also a hell of a lot more effective when you roll up to a podium on your Rascal scooter and shout "fight the power" between bites of ribs.

Sure, after a prolonged period of heavy eating, they too will become completely immobile, but Jaba didn't seem to have all that much trouble getting around. He also had a Rancor, not that this is pertinent to your protest. But it helps.

Quite frankly, hunger strikes jumped the shark when Ghandi did one, and as we saw at Guantánamo Bay, they're easy enough to stop with nasal catheters once the protesters are too emaciated to put up a fight. But try keeping a cheese-cake away from a 300-lb man on a mission, and you're going to need a heck of a lot more than a simple IV drip. And unlike the paper-thin individual, it's much more difficult to remove someone dedicated to an obesity strike from outside of Duff Stadium, which gives their cause that much more gravity.

So the next time you're vehemently opposed to the slaughter of Burmese monks, the environmental impact of the oil sands, or the unjust seventh-place finish of Sanjaya, I urge you not to put down your fork, but to grab a ladle in protest. A man softly weeping as he's forced to eat another slice of key-lime pie is a much stronger image than one who can't cry because his body doesn't have the energy to produce tears. And though you may think the latter is worse, you've probably never watched somebody eat until they've thrown up.



CONAL PIERSE



If we keep treating them like this, they won't be our best friends for much longer.

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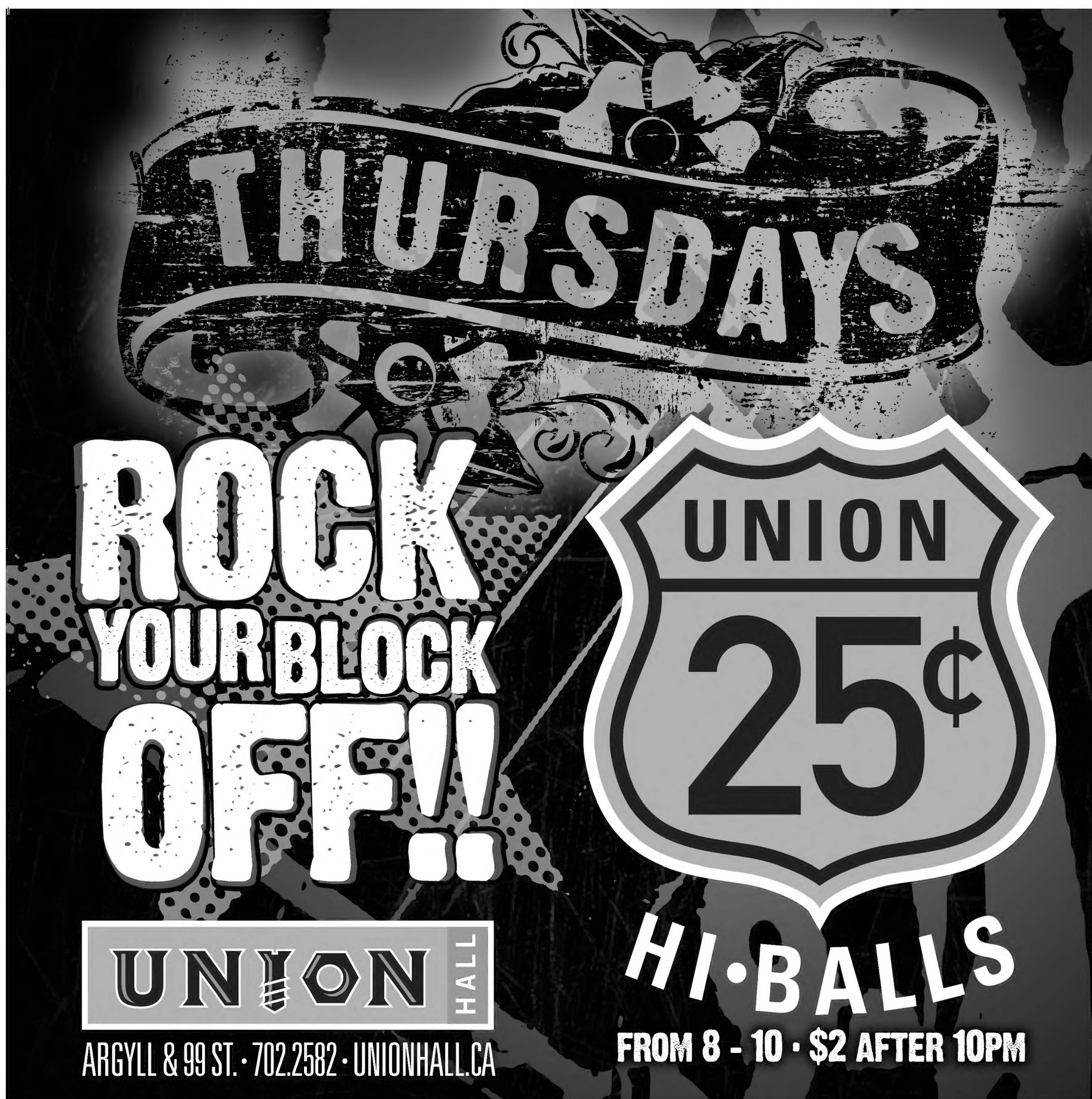
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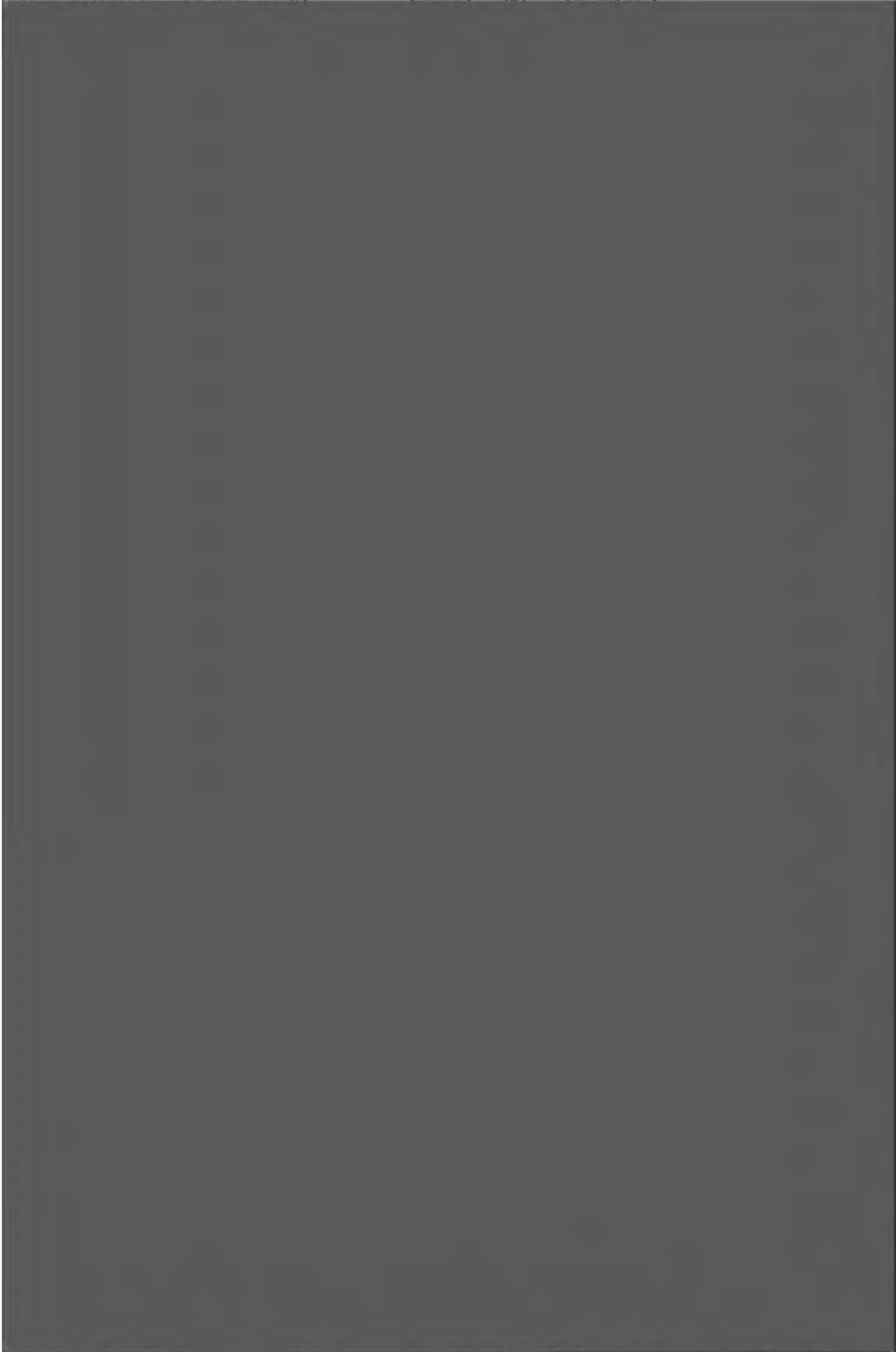
SPILLING THE BEANS

The benefits and drawbacks of the fair trade coffee movement



By Naomi Lightman
THE MCGILL DAILY (CUP)

Illustrations by Lauren Alston
and Matthew Barrett



It's a time-honoured ritual: each morning, bleary-eyed Canadians guzzle down their d coffee. In the kitchen or at a café, they wait a their beloved caffeine fix to brew.

But these days, the fair trade movement has helped of the black brew realize that each sip has political i It's now common knowledge that conventional c are grown on large-scale plantations in the tropica the world, that coffee workers are exploited and pa subsistence wages, and that profits rarely end up in of local farmers.

Fair trade coffee appears to be a perfect alternative entious caffeine addicts—high quality coffee that is a more ethical option and costs roughly the same as a beverage. Often touted as an important social justice fair trade attempts to reconcile producers' needs wi ests of consumers and corporations. This is done by f prices for coffee beans and cutting out the middlemen directly from small cooperatives.

Undeniably, fair trade is one way to put your m your mouth is. Yet as multi-national corporations movement to polish up their tarnished images and tions of market-based social justice solutions be evident, fair traders have started to question the d re-evaluate the goals of their movement.

EARLY BREWINGS

The birth of fair trade is often traced to 1942, wh of British Quakers founded the Oxford Committee Relief, or Oxfam for short. Their initial goal was to for wartime relief of impoverished people in Europ

By the 1960s, however, the organization had m tant changes. Oxfam began to reorient its focus to s produced by cooperatives in the global South, refle from providing charity to offering economic assista

Unlike traditional forms of international aid giv nations to poorer ones, which are mostly unilater with self-interested conditions attached, fair trad attractive alternative. It shares similar attributes w of ethical certification schemes, such as organic, swe forest stewardship labels. With fair trade, buyers pay mium of \$1.26 per pound of green coffee, and a \$0.15 per pound premium for organic fair trade co

"With fair trade, you get something in exchange more equitable than some charitable donations," s Firl, producer relations manager of Cooperative Coff American green coffee-importing cooperative. "It's that a lot of people can relate to."

Equal Exchange, the first fair trade coffee cor founded in 1986, in Canton, Massachusetts; today, est alternative trade organization in the United State

Two years later, in 1988, Max Havelaar was laun Netherlands, becoming the first fair trade coffee label. The name was taken from a fictional charac literature who had supported the plight of Javanese

The label was a small but significant step in the fair trade, as it allowed existing large coffee roaste

“With fair trade, you get something in exchange, so it feels more equitable than some charitable donations. It’s an approach that a lot of people can relate to.”

MONIKA FIRL
Producer Relations Manager, Cooperative Coffees

millions of daily dose of anxiously for d consumers implications. coffee beans l regions of aid close-to the pockets e for consci- certified as a ny specialty movement, mixing higher man, buying

fraction of their total coffee volume on fair trade terms.

“The idea was to get regular companies involved, instead of just NGOs, and certify them for whatever percentage of fair trade coffee they’re willing to buy,” said Gavin Fridell, assistant professor of political science at Trent University and author of the 2007 book *Fair Trade Coffee: The Prospects and Pitfalls of Market-Driven Social Justice*.

TransFair Canada, the only third-party certifier of fair trade products in Canada, audits transactions between companies offering Fair Trade Certified products and the international suppliers they buy from. It was founded in 1994 and given its first certification seal in 1997. While 13 commodities are now certified, including sugar, cocoa, and bananas, coffee remains the backbone of the market and the most recognizable fair trade product.

“People tend to be very passionate about coffee,” Firl explained. “There’s a whole culture around it, and it’s a more personal relationship than with other products we purchase.”

THE MARKET’S FICKLE HAND

Coffee is unquestionably big money: after oil and illegal drugs, it is the third-most valuable export commodity from the global South.

“We live in a world consumed by market ideology,” Fridell said. “Fair trade creates an avenue for people concerned with things like equity to channel their energy in a way that is compatible with global capitalism.

“But the flip side of the benefits of fair trade is that it gives the impression that the market can solve all the world’s problems.”

For one thing, fair trade constitutes only a specialized, niche market within the coffee industry.

“In 2003, there were 670 000 coffee farmer families registered with fair trade,” Fridell said. “On one hand, that’s wonderful. On the other hand, there are nearly 25 million coffee farmers worldwide. This means that we are helping less than three per cent of the world’s coffee farmers ... what about the other 97 per cent?”

Besides accounting for just a small fraction of the coffee industry, fair trade may also unintentionally support a free trade agenda. The International Coffee Agreement (ICA) between 1976 and 1989 regulated bean prices at a fixed price. The price for conventional beans under the ICA was equal to or well above what is now considered fair trade price, although the standards regarding the profits earned by middlemen were less stringent.

According to Fridell, the demise of the international regulation of all raw materials besides oil has largely been to the detriment of coffee producers. Today, coffee farmers are producing larger and larger quantities in a desperate attempt to make up for falling world market prices. But with fair trade, the onus is shifted to consumers to make a conscious decision to pay more.

“Now coffee farmers depend on the whim of Northern consumers, who are not responsible or accountable,” Fridell said. “You might buy fair trade and help a farmer who otherwise would go bankrupt, or you might not.”

STARBUCKS: FRIEND OR FOE?

As multinational corporations increasingly expand their participation within the fair trade market, fair traders have begun

to question the consequences.

“When Wal-Mart or others with histories of labour exploitation get involved, it’s leading to the end of the real credibility of fair trade,” claimed Phillipe Lapointe, a student at l’Université du Québec à Montréal who worked for two years as the Quebec regional coordinator of the Canadian Students Fair Trade Network.

Buying roughly one per cent of the world coffee supply, Starbucks is a high-profile, heavily branded, and publicly traded corporation with a primarily urban and middle-class consumer base. In the early 1990s, fair trade activists began challenging Starbucks to stop buying coffee from plantations where workers were treated poorly and paid unfair wages.

Initially, Starbucks flatly refused. Yet by the mid-’90s, Starbucks decided to stake a claim in the ethical certification movement, recognizing that its consumer demographic might be sympathetic to social justice issues. It announced that it would work toward a new code of conduct for the coffee industry and began to do more direct business with medium-sized farms but didn’t show interest in selling fair trade products.

In 1999, the human-rights advocacy organization Global Exchange approached then-Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and suggested that the company offer fair-trade-certified coffee in its stores. Starbucks was at first hesitant, voicing concerns about low quality. In response, Global Exchange organized peaceful protests in front of Seattle Starbucks stores, and a few months later, at the annual meeting of Starbucks stockholders, protesters again voiced their request.

As a result, Starbucks announced in 2000 a one-time shipment of 75 000 pounds of fair trade coffee—about 30 pounds per store—which Global Exchange promptly labelled a mere “drop in the cup.”

Later in the year, Starbucks finally agreed to offer fair trade coffee in each of its outlets, making it the largest single buyer of fair trade beans. This announcement came three days before the launch of Global Exchange’s large-scale consumer boycott against the company.

But in 2004, Starbucks announced that by 2007 close to 60 per cent of its coffee would be sourced according to its own code of conduct, leaving many to question what this code would entail. While the company usually pays at least the fair trade floor price in its transactions, it also relies heavily on brokers, meaning that farmers and plantation workers don’t necessarily benefit. As there’s minimal contact with producers, it’s unclear what share of the profits are reaped by middlemen or plantation owners.

With large roasters such as Starbucks buying only a small percentage of fair-trade-certified coffee, smaller roasters committed to 100 per cent fair trade production perceive these corporations’ efforts as little more than a marketing ploy.

Members of Cooperative Coffees have actively voiced their concerns. Composed of 22 community-based coffee roasters in Canada and the US, the cooperative’s members are committed to building and supporting equitable and sustainable trade relationships for the benefit of farmers and their families. These roasters strive to promote fair trade and sustainable development alternatives in both the North and the South.

“I don’t like seeing big companies with economic and politi-

cal clout coming in and dangling the carrot of buying large quantities of fair trade and then distorting the whole purpose of the movement,” Firl said. “They are using fair trade to improve their image with no intention of putting producers at the heart of their transactions.”

Roasters who have built their brand name around social responsibility and environmental concerns worry that fair trade will no longer be a genuine alternative to mainstream coffee consumption.

“If we are too inclusive we might spoil the mission,” Lapointe said.

Yet TransFair Canada argues that if corporate giants buy larger quantities of fair trade coffee, they will be doing more for farmers in the global South in the long-term than some of the smaller, 100 per cent fair trade roasters, due to sheer scale and monetary means.

Some coffee growers agree. Raoule del Aguila of Peru’s COCLA coffee cooperative, who spoke at the United Students for Fair Trade Convergence in Boston in 2007, sees it as a mixed blessing.

“The positive side is that, due to larger corporations, there has been increased demand for our products. The negative side is that we have to make sure that this change is sustainable. That is a challenge and a task for all of us,” he said.

Multinational corporations may recognize that fair trade is a good business strategy in the short-term, but there is no assurance that they will continue to see it that way, leaving support for fair trade in a precarious balance.

A FAIRER FUTURE?

According to Lapointe and Fridell, the student movement can play an important role in the fight to increase fair trade coffee consumption.

“Students are the ones that have time to get involved,” Lapointe said. “We should be promoting smaller companies on our campuses that sell 100 per cent of their products under fair trade terms, like Cocoa Camino and Équiterre.”

Fridell believes that university campuses should be a leader in promoting ethics in business, pointing to universities such as McMaster, as well as Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf in Quebec, which only provide fair trade coffee.

“Students have managed to force various university food providers to provide fair trade coffee,” he said. “But more important is to force the administrations to pass ethical purchasing policies so there is only a fair trade option available.”

Ultimately, fair trade holds many lessons for other industries and suppliers who seek to tap into the growing field of conscious consumerism. Forms of ethical production allow consumers an alternative to the exploitative economic relationships currently characterizing mainstream international trade.

Despite its problems and setbacks, fair trade continues to provide a valuable way for normal citizens to effect change with their money.

“There is still much merit to fair trade,” Fridell said. “Farmers are getting access to health care, education, and processing facilities. You are actually helping specific communities in the South to lead better lives.”

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Pauly Shore

11-13 October
Yuk Yuk's (Londonderry)

The star of such early '90s films as *Encino Man* and *Bio-Dome*, comedian Pauly Shore will make you nostalgic for the days of Ace of Base and *Jurassic Park*. After his short-lived TBS reality show *Minding the Store* ended in 2005, Shore ventured back out onto the standup circuit and is in Edmonton doing five shows this weekend. If you're lucky, you might even get to see Shore being assailed onstage by a husky, perturbed cowboy in a brilliantly crafted publicity scheme.

Lady Chatterly

Directed by Pascale Ferran
Starring Marina Hands and Jean-Louis Coullo'ch
Princess Theatre
Opens 12 October

The César award is France's version of the Oscar, except the little gold statue sports a tiny beret and is straddling a bidet while smoking a cigarette. Pascale Ferran's adaptation of DH Lawrence's alternative adaptation of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *John Thomas and Lady Jane*, picked up five of these adorable trophies, including one for Best Picture.

The tale of the love affair between the wife of a British aristocrat and the strapping, clothing-intolerant gamekeeper of their estate, Ferran maintains the eroticism of the original book to give the film a certain *je ne sais quoi* of nudity. But what really impressed the César judging panel were the risks the director took in spicing up the action in this early-20th-century tale with the addition of a forlorn pizza boy who, upon dismounting his steed, discovers that he is delivering to the wrong hayloft at the right time.

Let's Dance

With *On The Brink* and *Rum Runner*
Saturday, 13 October at 8pm
Victory Lounge

Local punk rock act Let's Dance brings the Saturday night fever this Saturday night. The band hails from E-town, a city "overrun by brutal crust, gymshort hardcore, and freakout indie rock." Influenced by '70s punk and power-pop, the band makes music designed to make people hit the dance floor and is currently preparing the release of their recently recorded EP.

Holly Cole

With Michael Kaeshammer
Monday, 15 October at 7:30pm
Winspear Center

Halifax-born Holly Cole rolls through Edmonton this week, touring in support of her new self-titled record that was released in March. Cole combines her sultry jazz vocals with other disparate genres as varied as rock and show tunes. Accompanying her is accomplished Toronto boogie-woogie pianist Michael Kaeshammer.

Olivia Newton-John

Tuesday, 16 October at 8pm
Winspear Center

The actress best known as Kira from *Xanadu* (and, to a lesser extent, Sandy from *Grease*) is bringing her singing voice to the Winspear stage this week. Having just released her first ever Christmas album, *Christmas Wish*, last month, Newton-John tours in support of both the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

JOHN KMECH
Going dreadless?

Stagger Lee a tale of many perspectives

Stagger Lee

Written by Derek McCulloch
Art by Shepard Hendrix
232 pages. Image Comics. \$18

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

Some folks go looking for trouble; some find trouble comes looking for them. For author and former University of Alberta student Derek McCulloch, there's a way of taking what life hands out and turning it into a career.

"I was a terrible student," McCulloch admits. "I kind of decided I was dropping out in my first week there, but at the time, I was too embarrassed to let my family know that. So, I actually spent a year pretending to go to college."

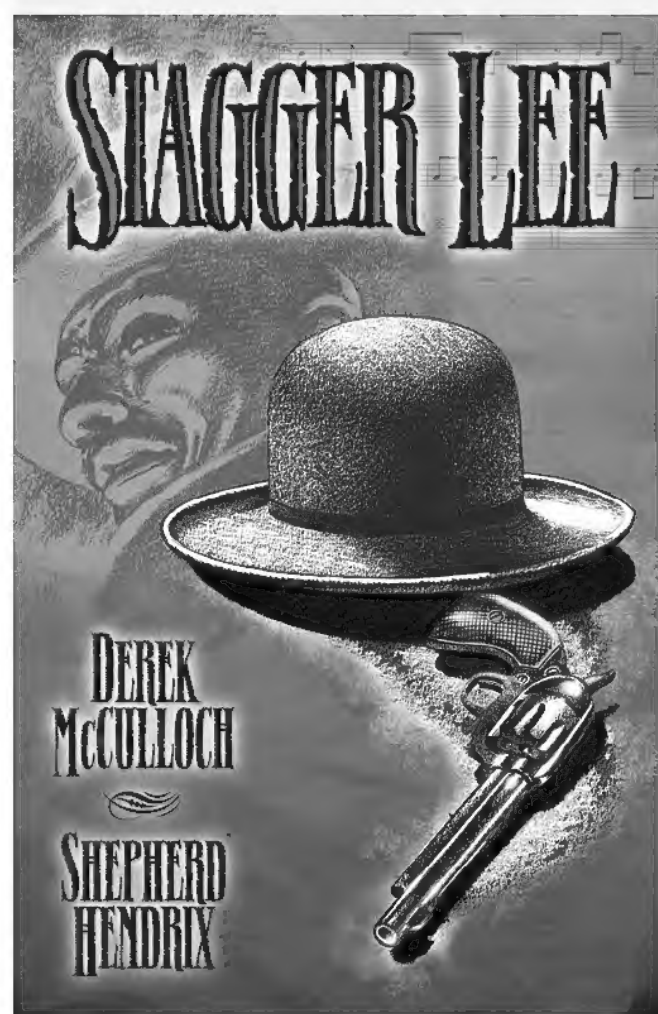
Having decided his own destiny early on, McCulloch is now in the midst of a continental tour alongside veteran comic artist Shepard Hendrix to promote their new book, *Stagger Lee*. Based on an endless playlist of folk and blues songs, it tells the true tale of a bar-room shooting in St Louis in 1895. The brawl quickly entered into the legends of frontier folklore, spawning dozens of musical renditions that have spanned nearly a century.

"I think the whole story is just a really great basic framework [...] that's what all great folklore is," McCulloch says, remarking on the musical history behind the legend of "Stagger Lee." "Everybody who recorded or wrote a version of *Stagger Lee* brings their own perspective and their own biases and their own interests to the story. You end up with something completely different every time."

While the songs have spanned generations, the story has found itself retold in countless genres.

"I started compiling a kind of a mix tape of different versions of 'Stagger Lee,'" McCulloch says. "I filled up about two hours' worth. I listened to them really, really frequently [...] the entire time I was writing, I was listening to these discs. Every word of the book is written with some version of 'Stagger Lee' playing in the background. It's very much a book infused in the musical tradition that it's trying to evoke."

This is McCulloch's first graphic novel, but he's had a long history within the comic-book universe. In the '80s, he joined a coalition of comic book enthusiasts, which would eventually come to be known as Strawberry Jam Comics. Through this group, a total of 14 issues of two titles were published in a time that McCulloch refers to as the "black-and-white boom."



bookreview

Stagger Lee

Now Available
By Derek McCulloch and Shepard Hendrix

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor



"[The boom] followed the advent of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, when all of a sudden, a whole bunch of people at the same time realized that it was actually pretty cheap to publish a black and white comic book," he recalls. "And, as evidenced by *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, it didn't really have to be that good to do very well."

"It's very much a book infused in the musical tradition that it's trying to evoke."

DEREK MCCULLOCH
AUTHOR OF STAGGER LEE

"Following the boom, very quickly there was a bust," he continues. "Unfortunately, our publication schedule was very erratic, and we managed to put out a bunch of them before the boom happened, and a bunch of stuff after the bust happened. So we completely missed the window when there was money to be made."

Luckily for McCulloch, his next foray into the comics industry saw more prosperity, as evident by *Stagger Lee*'s publication. In addition, his second graphic novel, entitled *Displaced Persons* is nearing its scheduled publication date of March 2008. The book,

which he describes as "a time travel story—but not really," takes place in three times and settings: a detective story in 1939, a narcotics film in 1969, and the greedy dot-com world of 1999.

"There are characters who move between the different periods," he explains. "What it's really about, and the significance of the title, is the effect of what mass movements of history have on families. It's a family saga that's mixed up in a conundrum of time, [and] each chapter is done in a different two-tone colour pallet with its own distinct tone pattern as well. When the characters move back and forth through time, they take their colour patterns and their tone patterns with them. You'll have a sequence in 1939 where every scene is one colour except this one character."

Meanwhile, McCulloch and Hendrix are continuing their promotional tour, having just passed through Edmonton. While the work is far from over, McCulloch looks forward to some well-deserved rest, reminiscent of his days at the U of A.

"I'd go to the library, and they had these big, overstuffed chairs there. They were at this dead-end spot where nobody ever went to," he recalls. "I used to sit down in those chairs and go to sleep for an hour and a half every morning to make up for having gotten up to go to the chem class that I never went to."

Notably, the book shows that Lee Shelton survived long enough to even hear the dozens of songs that were already beginning to spread his legend across the West.

In addition to the artful storytelling, *Stagger Lee* boasts some impressive visuals. No stranger to comics artistry, Shepard Hendrix brings his talented penwork to the page to create a truly engaging visual story. Most notable of his talents is his veritable plethora of *Stagger Lee* caricatures: Lee is transformed from a run-of-the-mill cowboy to a hardy gangster to a sleek and svelte player as the action progresses, and the characterizations never feel forced.

With enough research put into the book to fill a textbook, the knowledge paints an enlightening picture of the man who was Lee Shelton. While *Stagger* may already have a hundred and one different voices to preach his story, McCulloch and Hendrix's contribution is a welcome addition to an already vast library.

It's a simple premise that transcends the ages: two guys walk into a bar, but only one walks out. In *Stagger Lee*, Derek McCulloch and Shepard Hendrix take a legend that's been retold countless times in every genre of song and story imaginable, and give it their own distinct flavor with a dash of pen and ink.

It's a historically established fact that in 1895, Lee Shelton shot Billy Lyons in a St Louis saloon. But that's where the facts end: some say that the two were bitter rivals; others maintain that they were close chums. The fight could've been over politics, over the heart of a charming belle, or over something as simple as a well-made Stetson. It's these variables that have invariably spawned the legend of *Stagger Lee* as it's been passed between the generations, from folklorist to blues singer to historian.

In the book, McCulloch explores the differing opinions of just what happened on that fateful night in

the Gateway to the West. The fight in the bar is only the beginning of the tale, which goes on to predict Mr Lee's fate in the aftermath of his outburst. While the official record states that he was convicted for his crime and died while serving a life sentence in prison, some songs about *Stagger* tell a different tale entirely. He's become both a hero and a villain, painted by each artist with a different brush and a radically different outlook on the man's life—and more importantly, on his death.

Stagger Lee highlights several of the proposed ideas using an in-and-out storytelling method that pauses the action of the main plot line every few chapters to explore another avenue of Lee's saga. While McCulloch has woven his own version of the story, adding a handful of fictional characters into the mix, these additions add flavor and provide a more personal vision of the *Stagger Lee* chronicle.

Chuck one-ups most of new Fall TV season

NBC’s new action-comedy tops our list of new TV shows, but not everything new is wonderful: *Grey’s Anatomy* ain’t what it used to be



GATEWAY
STAFF

Sean Steels
BEST: *THE OFFICE*

Initially dubbed a cheap imitation of its BBC counterpart, the American version of *The Office*, now starting its fourth season on NBC, has risen to earn more than a dozen awards and even more nominations. Its subtle, mockumentary style of comedy requires attention to detail and patience—some of the funniest moments won’t make much sense unless you’ve been watching from Day One—but it’s the show’s meticulous production and attention to detail that makes it different from anything else on the tube.

Michael Scott (Steve Carell) brings a sense of excruciating awkwardness to the show. His well-intentioned but usually inappropriate jokes and comments drive each situation to the point where all you can do is cringe and wait for the reliably hilarious aftermath of his bungled attempts to bring his “family” of employees closer together. In this season’s first episode, he’s already managed to run down an employee with his Chrysler Sebring.

WORST: *THE HILLS*

The Hills is back for its third season, and with its third outing, MTV’s hit faux-reality show takes cable to a whole new low. These inarticulate, spoiled, pampered rich kids are given 20 minutes’ time to

star Campbell doesn’t hurt much either. He lends a sarcastic and humorous tone that adds to the already well-written dialogue and expert direction.

WORST: *FLASH GORDON*

Flash Gordon is a sci-fi classic: the tales of a hero thrown into the fray against the evil Ming the Merciless. Sounds fairly difficult to screw up, right? Wrong.

The Sci-Fi channel, the very same people who managed to revive *Battlestar Galactica*, have redone this show—already revived multiple times beforehand—with all the excitement of an extended yawn.

The writing is very weak and feels forced; the action sequences are overly campy; and the alien world and citizens of Mongo are all terrible. Mongo itself looks like a city here on Earth tinted pink, and its inhabitants are 100-per-cent human. Hell, even the ’80s movie version did a better job than this.

The only saving grace for this show is the acting: the onscreen chemistry between Flash (Eric Johnson) and Dale (Gina Holden) is particularly evident, and well done. The two would shine even more had the writing and direction not been so awful. *Flash Gordon* is a complete and utter bust.

Elizabeth Vail
BEST: *CHUCK*

Those entrusted with “saving the world” have gone by many names. Bond. Buffy. Hiro. Jesus. And now, one may add Chuck to the list. In NBC’s latest offering from Chris Fedak and Josh Schwartz, Chuck (Zachary Levi), the head of the computer department at a Best Buy-esque superstore, receives an email on his birthday from an old roommate from college. Turns out, his buddy’s a spy-gone-rogue who’s stolen every secret the NSA and CIA ever hoarded, encoded in thousands of subliminal images. Opening the email, Chuck unwittingly downloads America’s most sensitive secrets into his brain.

Transformed into the man who knew way, way too much, Chuck finds himself teamed up with the CIA and NSA’s top spooks, femme fatale Sarah (Yvonne Strzechowski) and blunt instrument Casey (*Firefly*’s Adam Baldwin), whose job is to make sure the conspiracies inside Chuck’s head stay there. A winning combination of *Alias*-type martial arts, explosions, and car chases, with the nerd-in-need humour of *Office Space*, *Chuck* proves to be a spicy action thriller with a sweet comedic centre.

WORST: *GREY’S ANATOMY*

The worst show this Fall isn’t some gimmicky new program from some brain-dead commercial think-tank, but an established series that has taken a sharp and sudden turn for the worse. It’s easy—just take two counts of sodden break-up angst, one shark-jumping drunken encounter, a dash of convoluted family ties, and one crazy-ass blonde homewrecker, and you’ve successfully turned *Grey’s Anatomy* from a witty, sexy medical romp into a depressing deadweight on Thursday nights.

Anatomy’s varied cast of characters have all been reduced to their own individual clutter of clichés. In the season premiere alone, Meredith freaks out about her relationship with Derek and still ends up screwing him, Derek practices his kicked-puppy look, Kerev smirks like an asshole, George whines like an infant, Cristina’s repressed herself into the 18th century, and Izzie abandons all rationality yet again, this time by performing surgery on a live deer to impress her wary interns.

There’s a way to portray the implausible and make it campy fun, but *Grey’s Anatomy* has gone farther into the plain, dull, and impossible. If real American doctors are like this, it’s no wonder so many forgo health insurance.

“Michael Scott (Steve Carell) brings a sense of excruciating awkwardness to the show. His well intentioned buy usually inappropriate jokes and comments drive each situation to the point where all you can do is cringe and wait for the reliably hilarious aftermath of his bungled attempts to bring his “family” of employees closer together.”

SEAN STEELS

Kristina De Guzman
BEST: *CHUCK*

When I tuned into NBC’s *Chuck*, I didn’t know what it was about or that Josh Schwartz was the executive producer of the show. Later, I discovered that he was the same guy behind *The OC*, which I named Best Show of 2006. Maybe I’m more of a Josh Schwartz fan than I realized because *Chuck* has all the makings of a great drama: witty dialogue, a talented cast, a good *mélange* of “out-of-this-world” drama, and more realistic situations that many viewers can relate to.

The show’s basic premise is that the protagonist, Chuck (Zachary Levi), becomes a computer himself when he opens a strange email from a former classmate and has secret government files transferred into his brain. The fast-paced action à la *Mission Impossible* or *The Matrix*, juxtaposed with the daily dilemmas of a computer geek working at a place that looks so much like Best Buy, is a strange thing to witness, but somehow, it totally works.

WORST: *IT’S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA*

There must be a pretty good reason why most sitcoms are only half an hour long instead of an hour like their dramatic counterparts. It’s possibly because

many of them are like FX’s *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*: they’re just plain awful to watch.

Philadelphia seems to take in all the qualities that make for a horrible comedy: characters who act like idiots, sleep-inducing plots, and actors who try to be funny but overact to the point that they’re not.

One episode presents three different stories dealing with political or social issues. Two of the stories revolve around environmentalism and abortion, and, frankly, are simply a waste of time; the most interesting of the three involves finding a baby in a dumpster and trying to turn it into a child star. However, the talent agent refuses the baby, saying that the agency is now trying to target a Latino audience and sadly, Dumpster Baby, well, just doesn’t look Latino. The talent agent says she won’t accept the baby “unless you can change the colour of this baby’s skin,” so the lackluster caretakers take the baby to a tanning salon.

There’s something wrong when the highlight of the show isn’t Danny Devito, but the orange receptionist who reacts with disgust to what Dumpster Baby’s temporary parents are trying to do. As long as the receptionist isn’t a regular, *Philadelphia* has no hope.

David Johnston
BEST: *PUSHING DAISIES*

It’s a little risky to stake a claim that the fall’s best bet is a show that hasn’t premiered yet, but the ninety seconds I’ve seen of executive producer Bryan Fuller’s new fantasy drama are better than entire hours of some of the drivel currently clogging the airwaves.

The premise is simple: it’s the story of a piemaker with the power to bring dead people back to life ... for a little while. However, logic and realism aren’t even close to what the show is trying to deliver. Rather, it’s a modern-day fairy tale that gives most viewers a breath of fresh air. The cinematography is rich, colourful and compelling, making the brightness of *Pushing Daisies* a welcome change from the cold blue steel prevalent in the bevy of legal/forensic/medical shows or serial 24-esque dramas that have become so popular in recent years.

Call it magic, escapism, whimsy, or anything you like; the fact is, everything Fuller touches springs to life, from *Wonderfalls* to *Dead Like Me* to *Heroes*, so this flowering show has earned a slot on my Fall roster.

WORST: *KID NATION*

The concept was sound enough: 40 kids dropped off in a turn-of-the-century Old West town for 40 days, left alone with no adult supervision. Their mission: form a society. And if they’d been left alone and watched through Big Brother-style cameras, it could’ve been interesting. Would they bond as a group? Would they divide on class or race lines? Would they go *Lord of the Flies* on each other?

We’ll never find out, unfortunately, as the idea gets lost in the execution. Forty very loud kids left alone, with no adults, except for the 75 cameramen, sound guys, lighting directors, medics, psychologists, therapists, boom handlers, production assistants, and smarmy hosts hovering off-camera. And it isn’t so much “form your own society” as “do the things we tell you to do while screaming.”

Congratulations, CBS. If you set the reality TV bar any lower, we’ll be able to pave a freeway over it.



Band, fans putting their Radioheads together to reshape music

With more artists getting music to fans in less expensive ways, the music industry's biggest labels are facing the apocalypse



PAUL
BLINOV

After releasing *Hail to the Thief* in 2003, Radiohead found themselves in a strange limbo: they were one of the biggest bands in the world, but with their contract to Parlophone records fulfilled, they were as independent as your high school's platter of shitty metal bands.

The band could've easily signed a fresh contract with almost anyone; after having their last three albums debut in the top three on both the American and UK billboard charts, the thought of adding Radiohead to their roster most would cause most record company execs to start salivating uncontrollably. But instead

of big bucks and billboard charting, they've given execs the most terrifying thought of all: a drastic reshaping of the music industry into something that doesn't include them.

Ten days ago, Radiohead announced that their eagerly awaited new album, *In Rainbows*, would be released as a digital download, or special edition "discbox" through their website. While the discbox would set fans back a hefty 40 quid, the download would cost whatever the buyer felt inclined to pay for it. Could you pay nothing? You bet. One of the world's biggest acts decided to leave it to the consumer to dictate how much their new album was worth.

No record label is currently affiliated with the band, so no one's being intentionally screwed out of a paycheck. Radiohead are cutting out the record label—the usual middleman between fan and band—and getting their music to the fans in an inexpensive, effective fashion. Most bands only make

a few dollars off of every album sold, so if the pay-what-you-want method encourages even a small number of regular downloaders to chip in a few bucks, Radiohead should make just as much they would've through a major release, without costs to return to a record label—a fact that will get stingier fans to buy the album.

[Radiohead]'s given execs the most terrifying thought of all: a drastic reshaping of the music industry into something that doesn't include them.

This could cause major change in the music industry; for years they've

gotten away with promising to cut CD prices while doing nothing of the sort to make a dent in their prices, leading to a buildup of "Fuck the Man" sentiment that propelled downloading even when the first filesharing lawsuits began to fly.

By the early 2000s, the music industry was in a slump; dependent on the big hits that they could manufacture and control like the boybands of the '90s, they found more and more disappointing sales figures coming in. Suddenly, albums that cost \$20-plus were no longer flying off the shelves.

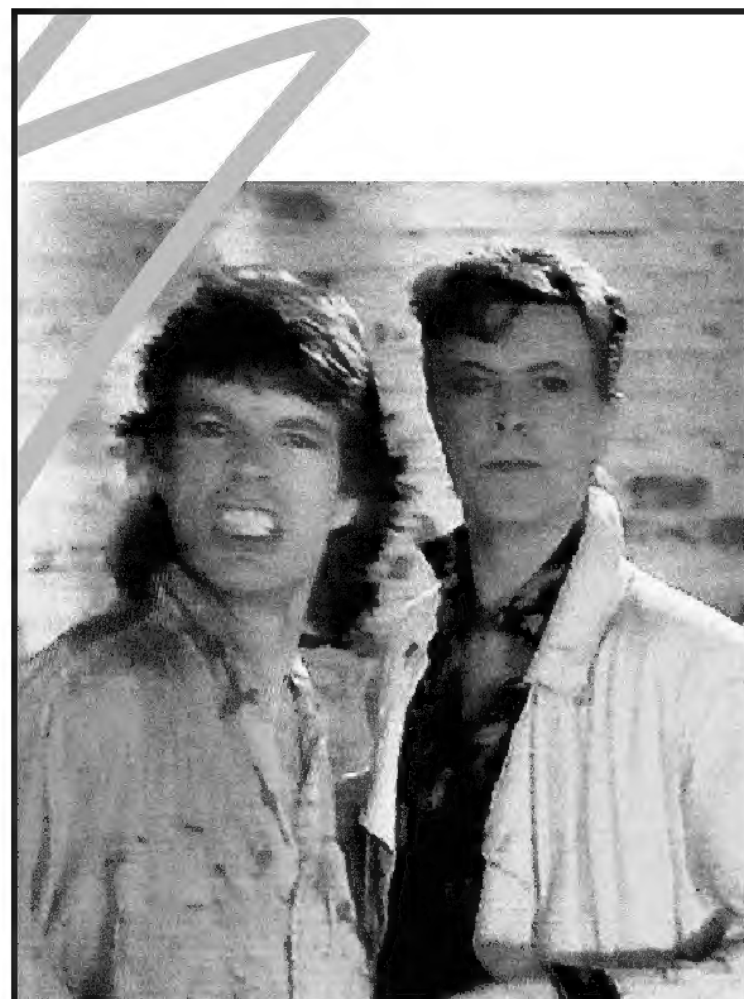
Meanwhile, iTunes, with its extensive, immediate database and low costs, started to force the hands of major retailers like HMV, who cut prices in response. But large amounts of fans would still rather download an album for free than pay even \$20, now that the technology was reliable and quick. The major retailers missed their change to pre-empt downloading and

keep music buyers in their stores.

Radiohead's not the only act taking this direct-to-fans approach: Prince gave away copies his latest release, *Planet Earth*, with a Sunday newspaper, infuriating his record label and stores everywhere. But his payoff was an unprecedented 21-night stint in London, selling out every show. He gave the fans his music; they gladly paid to see his shows. Both parties profited, while the music industry sat uninvited on the sidelines.

If more large bands take similar paths as their contracts expire, major labels could die off altogether. Some labels will probably still exist—not every band's well-known enough to have fans to directly release music to, after all. But if all the big-bands make it easy on their fans, the "Man," so famous for corrupting music, will end up dethroned and penniless, looking for another job out on the street.

ALSO SEE THE **REVIEW** ON PAGE 20



Here at the Gateway, you could collaborate with just about anyone—except David Bowie, probably.

Or Mick Jagger, for that matter. But pretty much anyone else is fair game.

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Holy Fuck offer foul-mouthed dirty dances

musicpreview

Holy Fuck

With Girl Talk

Friday, 12 October at 8pm

Starlite Room

LIAM FITZPATRICK

Arts & Entertainment Writer

For a band that's been touting their peculiarly volatile cross between an electronic act, jazz quartet, and rock band across Canada the past few years, Holy Fuck is an effectively snappy moniker. Having opened for such rising dance-rock acts as Edmonton's own Shout Out Out Out Out, Holy Fuck presents audiences with an opportunity to pound beers and gyrate shamelessly, all while shouting their name like it was still the gloriously dirty word mom would wash your mouth out for uttering aloud.

"The name just started off as kind of a joke, prompted by the nature of the music," keyboardist Graham Walsh says over the phone. "Some people censor it; some people don't. We don't really care either way. It still comes across."

The nature of the music is certainly unique, with a variety of sounds and influences combining into semi-structured songs worth dancing over. Holy Fuck's been something of a jam band from the beginning, basing many of their sets on improvisation instead of rehearsed music. However, Walsh is quick to note that despite using a bit more structure these days, the band is still free to veer off track if



the mood calls for it.

"We're influenced by everything really. I mean, we're all big music fans, and like music from tons of different genres," Walsh explains. "I think, basically, we've created this arena to create music and put whatever influence we want into that, and it will always come out sounding uniquely Holy Fuck."

"We've been on the road for an awful long time, and after a couple years of touring a lot, we've sort of

reined it in a little bit," he continues. "There's still a lot of jamming, but it's more controlled. We do have a couple of songs now that are actually structured and formulated, but within that, we're all free to stretch out and jam. I guess we have gotten a bit better at jamming, and it's not as noisy and chaotic, but we're looking at each other and cueing things and making it sound a lot tighter these days."

This control and order is evident in their new album *LP*, which

Walsh is excited to see released in its rehearsed state—Holy Fuck's self-titled first album was more like an extended jam session that just happened to get recorded.

"Technically, *LP*'s our second [album], but on the first record we made, we just went into the studio and jammed. Then we started touring a lot and writing newer stuff. This second record is the result of us touring and figuring stuff out. It's a lot more structured and melodic. It will be, for a lot

of people, the first thing they hear from us."

Garnered as one of the top three bands at this year's Glastonbury Music Festival, *LP* probably won't be the last thing anyone hears of Holy Fuck, either.

"We've done a lot of touring and a lot of figuring out who we are and what we are as a band," Walsh explains. "We've got all that refining out of the way, and now we'll just continue to refine and grow."

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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 11 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 11 october, 2007



MIKE OTTO

MIGHTIER THAN MOST The Weakerthans' frontman John K Samson belts out a song about Winnipeg or curling or a cat named Virtute during their show last night at the Myer Horowitz. The band will be playing the venue again tonight.

Donation helps fuel further sci-fi studies

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

When Chester Cuthbert was a boy, science fiction and fantasy weren't considered true literary genres. But eight decades later, the contents of the Winnipeg man's private collection are no longer being.

The long-time science fiction fan, who turns 95 this week, has donated a collection estimated to contain 60 000 books, periodicals, and a very significant personal archive to the University of Alberta.

"One of the beauties of Chester's collection is we're anticipating it's going to strengthen our holdings in the earlier period," said Merrill Distad, associate director of libraries for the U of A. He explained that, to date, the University's science fiction collection had been much stronger for the period after 1955.

Also included in the collection are hundreds of pulp fiction magazines

from the 1920s, '30s, '40s, and '50s, as well as a lot of amateur publications known as "fanzines."

"[Fanzines] are very scarce because few were produced, and those are going to have very high value," Distad said.

The entire collection has been estimated to be worth between \$500 000 and \$1 million, and Distad said it will take months, if not years, to process and properly catalogue all of the material.

This was the largest collection the U of A has received from a private individual, and it will come to the University in small shipments.

"The books aren't here yet because, quite simply, there's no warehouse space available in Edmonton, and we don't have the floor space at the [Book and Record Depository] to take more than a dozen or a dozen and a half pallets at a time," Distad explained.

PLEASE SEE **DONATION** ♦ PAGE 6

Stein wins with WalkAide

Reasearcher walks away with Da Vinci award for electronic device that helps people with foot drop

JONATHAN TAVES
News Writer

Thanks to a technological breakthrough by University of Alberta researchers, hope has been given to thousands of people who have lost independence and mobility due to foot drop.

A condition caused by disruption of nerves along the outside of the lower leg, foot drop prevents a person from lifting their toes, instead dragging them along the ground with each step. For those afflicted, walking becomes painful and exhausting.

Dr Richard Stein has been with the University's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry for almost 40 years, and was the driving force behind the invaluable new system.

"How we got into developing the product for foot drop was creating devices for people with more severe spinal chord injuries," he explained. "There were a large number of people—from stroke, from spinal chord injury, from multiple sclerosis—with this condition."

Over ten years in development, the eventual answer is only as big as a deck of cards: the WalkAide. Strapped just below the knee, it uses a small electric current to stimulate the disrupted nerves, allowing a person to walk normally. The device was such a breakthrough that it won a Da Vinci award, an international recognition of assistive and adaptive technology,

in late September.

Stein points out that previously attempted products were large, inefficient, and also required users to wear shoes with a heel sensor or have wires running down the leg.

"We had the initial idea that if we could build it into a completely self-contained unit and make it efficient, there would be a lot more people who would benefit from it," said Stein. "We felt this is something that would make a difference in people's lives."

Gerald Gordey and Edgar Jackson are two of those people. They've noticed dramatic change since first strapping on the gadget during its development stage.

"I've gained back my mobility and freedom," said Jackson, who, as the result of a spinal chord injury, suffered from foot drop until beginning to wear WalkAide six years ago as part of Stein's study.

"It has put pleasure back into walking," Gordey explained. "It's a wonderful device. Walking was too painful and difficult before."

Gordey said that since he began treatment with the machine four years ago, it has been a normal part of his routine.

"To me, it's like putting on my glasses in the morning," Gordey described. "I would compare the [electrical] sensation to the vibration of a cell phone."

PLEASE SEE **DA VINCI** ♦ PAGE 2

Inside

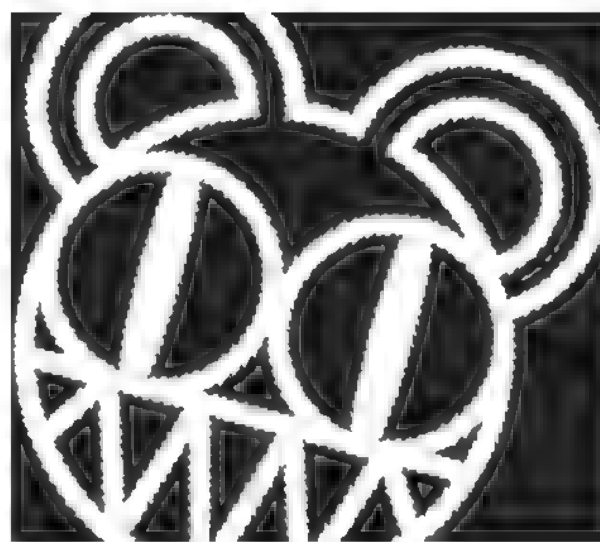
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Guilt-free coffee

Is fair trade coffee all it's cracked up to be? Grab some grounds, flip through this feature, and decide for yourself.

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DRM-free Rainbows

Will Radiohead reshape the way the music industry does business with their latest release, *In Rainbows*?

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albumreview

Radiohead
In Rainbows
 Independent

PAUL BLINOV
 Arts & Entertainment Editor

Poor Thom Yorke. A man known for his paranoid sentiments and bleak outlook has ended up fronting one of the world's largest bands and facing the pressure of millions of fans, critics, and even a few haters waiting to pounce on any new Radiohead track they can get at.

But amid so much nerve-wracking hype, the band just dutifully carries on at its own pace—Yorke had released a solo album, *The Eraser* in between this album and their last one. Now, four years after *Hail to the Thief*, we've been given *In Rainbows*.

It's a guitar record, like *Ok Computer* and *The Bends*, but it's not that poppy; it's dark and brooding, like *Kid A* and *Amnesiac*, but lacks their emphasis on

electronics; it's a return to form, but an experimental side-step to the left. On album number seven, Yorke and the boys have managed to deliver a package that hints at pretty much every period in their career without sounding like they're grasping desperately at those days for any under-used ideas.

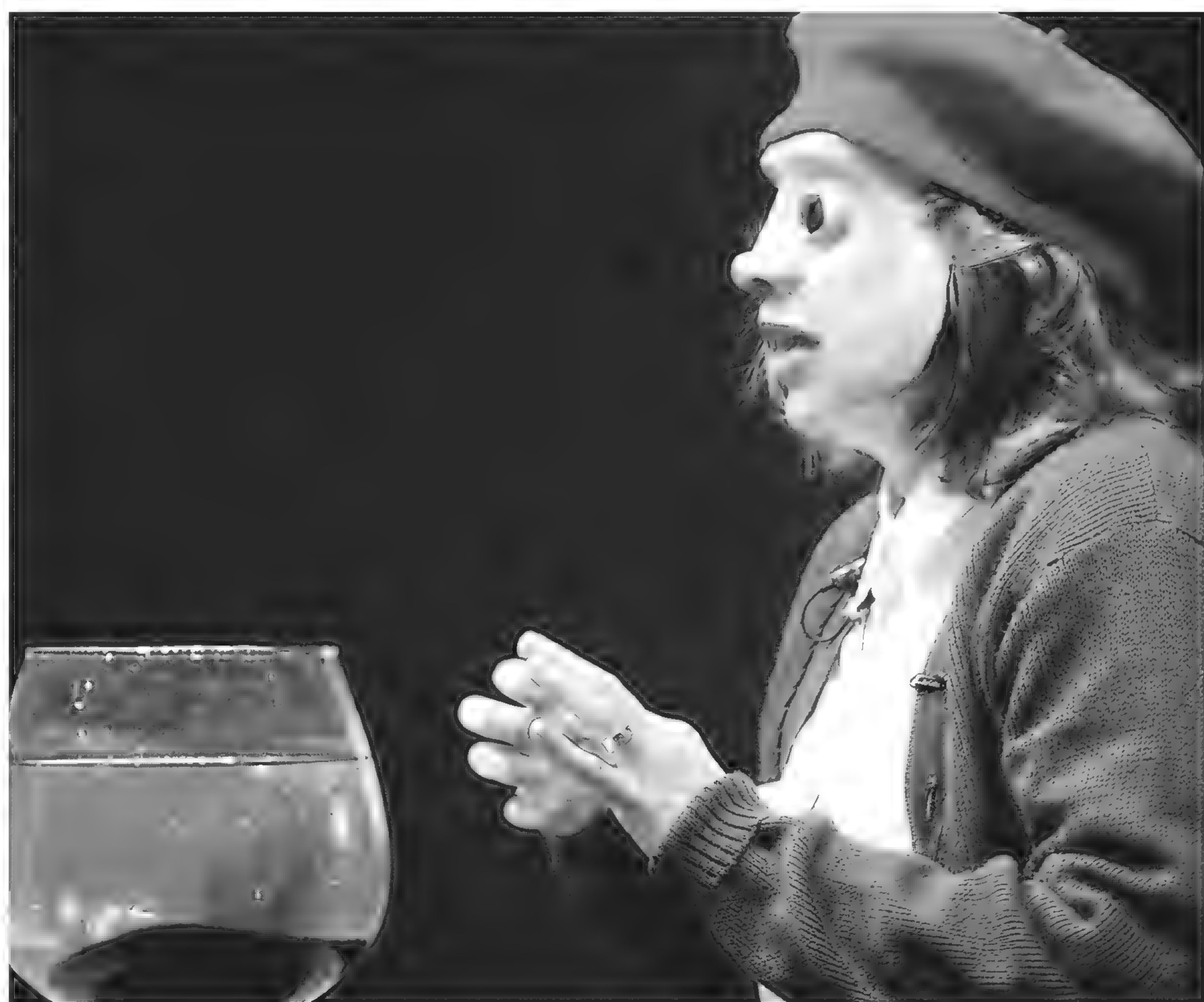
Opener "15 Step" is a good example: its fuzzy electronic beats immediately recall Yorke's *Eraser* solo project, but the vocal melody he lays down on top is nothing like he's ever done before: rhythmic, fast, and soulful. It then swells up with plucked guitar riffs, live drumming overtop the beats, and even shouting children. Once it reaches its stuttering boiling point—with all of the above in full swing behind Yorke's

rallying cry of "You reel me out / then you come astray"—it fades away much faster than it came.

The following track, "Bodysnatchers," is the closest that Radiohead's been to the straight-shooter rock of *The Bends* since 1995: it's dominated mostly by fuzzed-out guitars, but a spectral, howling synth line cuts through the distortion to bleed into the crystalline, focused chorus before falling into a wonderfully messy guitar bit.

"House of Cards" is the most bizarre track here; Yorke's out-of-character opening lyric of "I don't wanna be your friend / I just wanna be your lover" is sung over reggae-tinged, beach-friendly guitar and ghostly backing vocals that eventually fade into distant, hazy guitar shredding. But even at their most experimental, Radiohead seems comfortable—just another song for them. But for listeners, it's a thrilling experience.

With *In Rainbows*, Radiohead has given their fans exactly what they wanted: an album that simultaneously combines nostalgia's knowing twinge and the prickle of excitement from a new discovery. It seems to be what they do best.



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

MASKING EMOTIONS Liisa Repo-Martell wears a number of different faces during her Citadel performance of *I, Claudia*

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FILE PHOTO: ANDREW RURAK

CAN HAS CAN-AM VICTORY? The Bears are going to have to aim over the net if they want to help Canada win the Can-Am Challenge against teams like NCAA Division I champions UC Irvine.

US schools clamouring for Can-Am Challenge

Eight of the best men's volleyball teams in North America are at the University this weekend in a head-to-head battle of countries

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The men's volleyball regular season is still two weeks away, but arguably the most highly anticipated event of the year is already here: the annual Husky Energy Can-Am Challenge. Four teams each from CIS and NCAA will gather in the Main Gym from Thursday to Saturday, battling it out for continental supremacy on the court.

Last year's CIS silver medallists, the Bears will host teams from McMaster University, the University of Calgary, and Trinity Western University, as well as NCAA Division I schools George Mason University, the University of Southern California, University of California at Irvine, and Pepperdine.

With such illustrious teams—UC Irvine were last year's Div I champions, Pepperdine went to the Final Four, and all but Calgary of the Canadian teams went to CIS championships—the Can-Am Challenge has become one of the most important events on the volleyball calendar in North America.

"It's one of the great landmark events in volleyball," Pepperdine head coach Marv Dunphy said. "People are probably more aware of this event than they are a lot of national team events. We just had our zone tournament down in Anaheim, California, and I could count as I was watching the game, 'Here's 100 people; here's 150.' At [this] event, the place is always rocking. It's exciting to be part of that."

The high level of competition is, according to those involved, crucial to the event's popularity to fans and teams alike.

"Now it's considered to be one of the best tournaments in North America, even though it's pre-season, just because of the format and the quality of the teams," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said. "The quality of the competition is great."

"We expect a really high level of volleyball," agreed John Speraw, UC Irvine head coach. "The

Canadian teams we've played there in the past have all been excellent, and I've met many of the Canadian coaches, and they're great coaches. We're going to get a high level of play."

The timing of the event means that, though it's too early for teams to be at their peak—the NCAA regular season doesn't get going until January—the Challenge is still an important pre-season opportunity for those participating.

"You get four dates in the non-traditional play segment [of the season]—four opportunities to test your team—and this is great," Dunphy explained. "If we just scrimmaged somebody here, in our gym, the lights are on, but there's no people there. There's no whistle; there's no good guys / bad guys thing. It's not the same.

"The more opportunities I can give my guys to play teams from across the border, or European teams, or Japanese teams, those are all things that help a volleyball player grow."

TERRY DANYLUK
BEARS VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

[Can-Am] is a great way to test tactics, systems, and personnel."

Danyluk and the U of A put in all the work to host the tournament because he feels it's such a good training tool for student-athletes.

"I've played a lot myself, and the thing I've always said is that the more international experiences you can have, the better you'll become," the former Team Canada athlete said. "Not only as a player, but as a person. The more opportunities I can give my guys to play teams from across the border, or European teams, or Japanese teams, those are all things that help a

volleyball player grow."

Of course, for the casual fan, the Can-Am Challenge is simply an opportunity to watch some of North America's best university athletes play in the Main Gym, not to mention cheer for their country. One of the more interesting aspects of the Can-Am Challenge is that there isn't a single team winner: each game is a Canada-US matchup, and at the end of the weekend, one country is declared the winner. In the twelve years since the current four-on-four format was established, Canada has won the tournament eight times.

"I think the Canada-US thing adds a nice little twist," said Dunphy. "It's not too often we would pull for USC."

The Bears are a traditional CIS powerhouse, and as such, have been a big part of Canada's strong Can-Am record, having not lost in four years. The team only graduated two players from last season, and Danyluk expects a quality performance from his squad again this weekend.

"[We have] the majority of the guys who played last year, plus we've added a couple of young high-school players who've never played at a high level but are really good athletes," Danyluk said. "Part of our strength will be our outside hitting, because all of our outside hitters are back."

He'll also be using the playing time as a pre-season training tool.

"It's a good opportunity for us to take another stride to starting league in two weeks. We're going to play hard and give everybody an opportunity at least somewhat against the opposing teams. I'm still using this as something of a gauge to see how good we're going to be."

But practical advantages aside, all the participating teams are in for the fun of playing each other.

"It's a great event. The University of Alberta does it all; all we do is show up and play," Dunphy said. "I think maybe because we were the first to say, 'Yeah, we're coming,' that out of loyalty [Terry has] kept inviting us back, and I hope that never changes because really it's one of the highlights of our fall."

CAN-AM SCHEDULE

Thursday, Main Gym

Alberta vs USC, 7pm

Friday, Main Gym

TWU vs George Mason, 10am
McMaster vs UC Irvine, 12pm
Calgary vs George Mason, 4pm
TWU vs UC Irvine, 6:30pm
Alberta vs Pepperdine, 8pm

Friday, Pavillion

Calgary vs Pepperdine, 10am
McMaster vs UBC, 6:30pm

Saturday, Main Gym

McMaster vs Pepperdine, 10am
Alberta vs George Mason, 12pm
TWU vs Pepperdine, 4pm
Calgary vs USC, 6:30pm
Alberta vs UC Irvine, 8pm

Saturday, Pavilion

TWU vs USC, 10pm
Calgary vs UC Irvine, 12pm

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Top-ranked TWU team visits Bears

VICTOR VARGAS
Online Coordinator

Coming off a Thanksgiving break, the Bears soccer team hopes the rest will have done them good as they prepare to face Trinity Western and Fraser Valley this weekend at home. Both TWU (7-1-0) and UCFV (3-5-0) have defeated the Bears (4-2-2) handily already this season, but the Bears have recently been on a roll and want revenge for those losses.

Alberta, last year's national champions, is now ranked second in Canada West behind TWU, an enjoyable position to hold in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year. The team suffered a slow start to the season, and according to head coach Len Vickery, a lot of the problems earlier in the year were due to the high player turnover.

"These things don't happen overnight. You just don't put a group of players together and somehow, magically, things come together quickly, especially when they are younger players, coming from high school to a new level of soccer, and some of their opponents have had a good number of fourth- and fifth-year players," he said. "I think [the improvement] speaks to the quality of the people we have attracted to the program."

In contrast to the Bears' fresh roster, conference leaders TWU have benefited from a large number of returning and experienced players. This has given the Spartans a significant advantage and the Bears another obstacle to conquer.

"They've lost only one game, so they are clearly ahead of everyone else right now," Vickery said. "We've got to be even better than we were



FILE PHOTO: SHAUN MOTT

FLEET-FOOT MAC Alberta's nearly on top, but need a pair of wins this week.

two weekends ago, but that is what we work towards: getting better week by week."

As for Fraser Valley, the newest team to the conference, Vickery noted that they should not be counted out and have been fairly impressive.

"They beat us, which was their first win in Canada West. Even though they had some ties last year, I don't think they had any wins," he said. Fraser Valley went 0-12-2 last year. "They are a team we have to be wary of."

One issue plaguing the team in the first half of the season has seemingly

been defence. Every game has resulted in at least one goal going in against the Bears.

"It's a truism of soccer that we defend as a team. So it's not just the goalkeeper, not just the defence. You need the midfielder to play a bit of a defensive position—even the forwards have to help out in that regard," he said. "So it's a collective effort defensively. We've conceded goals each and every game, albeit a lot less in recent games."

The Bears take on TWU on Saturday, and UCFV on Sunday at Foote Field. Both games begin at 2:15pm.

Hockey Bears look for redemption from U of C

JUSTIN BOLIVAR
Sports Writer

They were hoping to start the season off with a bang, but the Bears hockey team (0-1-1) dropped their season-opening series against the UBC Thunderbirds last weekend with a pair of losses: one in overtime, and the other a 6-2 blow out in regulation. Those surprises behind them, the team has a lot to prepare for before they face Calgary (1-1-0) this weekend.

The Bears knew going into last weekend's series that they would be in for a tight match-up, but the results were still disappointing for a team that has consistently dominated their conference, and the T-Birds.

"Players need to understand their roles and that the team takes priority over the individual."

ERIC THURSTON
BEARS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

The weekend's upset aside, the Bears head coach Eric Thurston still believes his team has what it takes for a winning season, starting with this weekend against the Dinos.

"This year, we expect ourselves to have the identity of a defensive-minded team," he said. "We have to outwork our opposition, make teams play up

to our speed level, and take no selfish penalties. Players need to understand their roles and that the team takes priority over the individual."

One thing the Bears are happy to have this season is strong goaltending. Last year's goalies Aaron Sorochan and Blake Grenier will be sharing time in net.

"There won't really be any changes in goal from last season. Both goalies will get a chance to start, and the key will be to maintain a low goals-against-average and to move the puck well out of our zone."

There weren't any real surprises in the pre-season, and despite the losses against UBC, Thurston is happy with the performances from his key players so far this season—his rookies in particular. Athletes he expects big things of include Jason Fransoo, a first-year defenceman who was a stand-out when the Bears took on the Oiler rookies in September.

Another potential new star is left wing Eric Hunter, who was drafted and then released by the New York Rangers. In addition, Thurston feels that rookie forward Derek Ryan, who scored on UBC on Friday, will be solid on both offence and defence. Rounding out the rookie crop is left wing Kyle Pess, who Thurston expects to bring intensity to the team, as well as solidifying the penalty kill.

The Bears take on the Dinos both at home and away this weekend. On Friday night, they'll play in Calgary at 8pm, and the puck drops at Clare Drake on Saturday night at 7:30pm.

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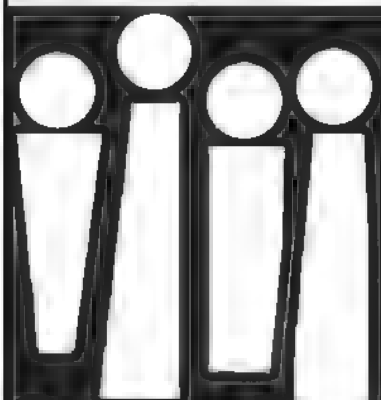
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CIS drug program under fire

MYLES GOUGH
The Charlatan

OTTAWA (CUP)—CIS has implemented a new mandatory online course to teach student-athletes about doping in sport, but Dick Pound, chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), still believes that not enough is being done to prevent steroid use in Canadian university athletics.

Tom Huisman, director of operations and development for CIS, called the course “more efficient” than drug education seminars administered in years past to varsity athletes and said it will allow them to get all the necessary information about CIS’ doping control program in a more timely manner.

CIS and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport will coordinate the doping control system and conduct drug tests on university athletes to ensure they’re complying with the rules of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, which took effect in June 2004.

According to Huisman, testing is primarily random, with a 1-in-25 chance that a student-athlete will be tested during the calendar year.

However, in a recent telephone interview, Pound said that CIS should consider stepping away from random sampling to improve the effectiveness of its doping control program.

“A four per cent chance of getting tested is not huge, and when you are working with limited resources, you need to make sure testing is effective,” he said. “Random testing is probably the least effective because it is simply a numeric decision and doesn’t assess where the risks of drug use are highest.”

CIS has practiced drug testing for 17 years, with nearly 5 000 tests conducted and 44 infractions found since its inception in 1990.

The two substances accounting for



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LIZ DURDEN

I CAN'T DO IT WHILE YOU WATCH This is a scary sight for doping athletes.

the most infractions are steroids and marijuana.

With 10 positive marijuana tests since 2002, questions have arisen about the validity of the drug’s inclusion on WADA’s list of banned substances. The general argument against it is that marijuana isn’t a performance-enhancing drug and shouldn’t be prohibited.

According to Pound, the pot debate is a consensus judgment with a lot of different perspectives.

“We don’t want there to be any suggestion in the sport community that we condone the use of illegal substances,” he said, explaining his position and that of his organization.

Under the rules of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, if an athlete can establish after a positive test that the infraction wasn’t intended to enhance their sport performance, punishment will be less severe.

Last year, three CIS football players tested positive for marijuana, and none received suspensions.

While marijuana has been a recent concern, overall statistics show steroids have accounted for 23 convictions—more than half of all doping violations in CIS history.

“CIS wants to ensure that everyone has a level playing field,” Huisman said, stressing the importance of steroid education. “Doping control will hopefully alleviate the pressures on students to feel the need to gain an unfair advantage.”

Rob Saunders, a player on the Carleton men’s basketball team, has been tested twice at the national championships.

“It sucks,” Saunders said. “We just won, and we were celebrating [...] and then you get some guy come up and tell you that you’ve been randomly selected for a drug test.”



MIKE OTTO

DON'T JUST STAND THERE The Bears basketball team got in some preseason action—and the first game for the rookies—on Wednesday night in an exhibition game against the charity team Athletes in Action. AIA won 101-83.

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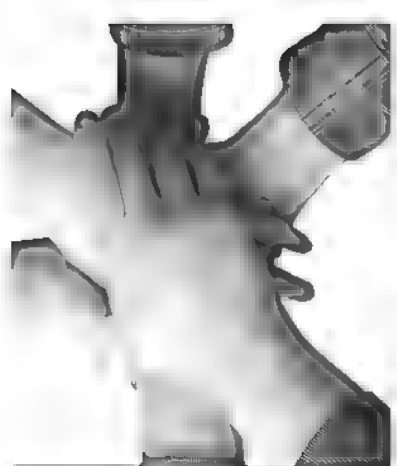
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Leaves are pretty, but in fall, it's all about baseball

SPORTS
STAFFGroup
Commentary

It's October, and you know what that means: time to covet cashmere sweaters and scream at the TV screen because your favourite player got called out at third. Yes, it's MLB finals season, when the boys of summer don their long sleeves and start playing games that people care about. Read on to find out what we expect and hope for this year's major league playoff season.

Trevor Phillips

October is the greatest month of the year. October is to the sports fan as May is to a gardener: complete and utter bliss. Every September when the leaves start to change colour and begin to drop, I begin eyeing the cornucopia

of sporting events that will eventually litter my fall days. My Octoberfest is simple: booze, chips, and wall-to-wall football, hockey, and, of course, playoff baseball.

My infatuation with the sport began when I was just a young kid watching whatever my old man told me to and loving it. But over the last few years, the fun has been sucked out of post-season baseball. Since the Red Sox came back down 3-0 to the Yankees in 2004, I just haven't been as entertained as usual. Perhaps that's due to a growing animosity toward the league because of the lack of Blue Jay success, but I think it's really due to the lack of amazing individual efforts.

Since 1993 we have been able to witness some pretty amazing moments: Counsel's game-winning single in '97; Luis Gonzalez against Rivera in '01; Bonds' post-season homerun barrage in '02; Josh Beckett in '03; and Schilling's bloody sock in '04—all of these memories not only take me back to great moments in baseball his-

tory, but to the amazing points in my life I identify them with on my personal timeline. So, in 2007, with some great new performers in the playoffs, mixed with old faces, I look forward to making new memories with just 20 days left to work with.

Marc Affeld

I predict that beloved American comedian Jimmy Fallon will play a huge part in the Boston Red Sox's almost certain victory over the Colorado Rockies in game seven of the 2007 World Series.

Despite a heated argument on the subject with girlfriend Drew Barrymore, Fallon will decide to attend the final game of the World Series, citing his life-long passion for watching the Red Sox lose. Red Sox manager Terry Francona, in need of a designated hitter, will pull Fallon from the stands in the bottom of the ninth—as Francona has, obviously, become a huge fan of Fallon ever since he saw that Pepsi commercial where Fallon dances adorably on top of a car

with Parker Posey.

Fallon will hit an epic, World Series-winning walk-off single, ending the two year drought that has been slightly irritating the more hardcore of Red Sox bandwagon jumpers.

The whole historic event will, sadly, do very little to boost the rapidly waning popularity of the lovably quirky funnyman, and will additionally mark the beginning of a new Red Sox curse, which will become commonly known as "The Curse of the Boobino." You can count on it.

Ben Carter

The prevailing wisdom regarding this season's baseball playoffs is that the ALCS, featuring Cleveland and Boston—the two best teams from this year's regular season—might as well be the World Series. That said, don't be surprised if one of the National League contenders ends up the 2007 World Series Champion.

Maybe you won't be initially blown away by either of the NL contend-

ers, but hear me out. As surprising as the thought of Orlando Hudson or Miguel Batista contributing anything more than solid defence up the middle—or bushels of blown saves—to a winning baseball team, some of the best Rockies will leave you just as confused. Brad Hawpe? Troy Tulowitzki? But the 215 RBIs between these two unknowns, as well as the power contributions from Matt Holliday, Garrett Atkins, and the always reliable Todd Helton, should give the Rockies the edge.

Boston's playoff experience should lead them past the young, powerful, but untested Indians, and they would be the favourite against either the Rockies or the Diamondbacks.

But very often in the World Series, it's the hottest team in the past few weeks of the season—a term that aptly describes this year's Rockies team—that pulls it off rather than the proven regular season winner. The Red Sox are the favourite to win it all, but there isn't a pushover to be found remaining in October.

While you were stuffing yourself with turkey last weekend, die-hard mountain unicyclists were gathering in the hills around Buffalo Creek, Colorado for the **1st annual Colorado MUnifest**.

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I don't care what you may have heard, but A-Rod's no playoff fraud



PAUL OWEN

Sports Commentary

Another October has come, and so has another first-round playoff exit for the New York Yankees. This means, of course, another round of stories condemning Alex Rodriguez as a playoff choker. Frankly, this routine is getting very tiresome, given that those claiming that A-Rod is worthless in October are completely wrong.

That's not to say that Rodriguez has been very good in recent play-off memory. His 1-14 performance (without a walk) in last year's loss to Detroit was embarrassing, but it's not like he was the only Yankee who disappointed at the plate: Gary Sheffield went 1-12, Jason Giambi was 1-8, and Robinson Cano was 2-15. The Yankees as a team were bad against the Tigers last year—that's why they lost.

But even with an improved performance against the Cleveland Indians this time around, Rodriguez is still being vilified in the media. A-Rod went 4-15 with two walks and a homer, and posted a respectable .820 on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS).

Hardly all-star numbers, to be sure,

but again, the Yankees as a whole weren't very good against the Tribe. Derek Jeter was 3-17 and hit into three double plays. Hideki Matsui was 2-11. Jorge Posada was 2-15. For the second straight year, the Yankees offense lost as a team, and this time around, A-Rod was one of the guys keeping them in it.

Still, FOX Sports called A-Rod's homer in the seventh as they lost to Cleveland on Monday "worthless," and *Newsday* called it "too little, too late," as though it were Rodriguez's fault that the rest of the Yankees weren't on base when he blasted one out.

No matter how you look at it, A-Rod is the best hitter in baseball.

It's true the guy's had a couple of horrid series—2005 and 2006 were particularly bad. But he also has a career .844 OPS in the post-season, with 7 homeruns and 17 RBIs in 39 games, and was outstanding in 2004, putting up a 1.213 OPS in the AL Divisional Series and .894 in the ALCS. He was just as good in his previous post-season appearance in 2000 as a member of the Seattle Mariners.

The important thing to remember when looking at any individual series statistically is that it produces a tiny sample size, one that isn't indicative

of how good a player is. Players sometimes struggle for stretches; it happens. Rodriguez had an 0-30 stretch in May this season, and it certainly didn't hurt him in the long run.

In fact, Rodriguez is the only reason the Yankees even made the playoffs this season. He hit 54 homers, drove in 156 runners, and scored 143 times, becoming the first player since Roger Maris to lead the league in all three categories. He created 166—17 per cent—of the Yankees' 968 runs, and he was worth 11 more wins to the Yankees than a replacement player would have been.

No matter how you look at it, A-Rod is the best hitter in baseball. He's easy to hate because of the \$25 million he makes per year—a number that isn't even enough for him as he seeks a richer contract extension this off-season and will opt out of his current contract if the Yankees don't give it to him—and his poor sportsmanship on the field (his 2004 karate chop of Bronson Arroyo and his yelling "Mine" behind Howie Clark earlier this year being just two examples). But he's also supremely talented and could end up owning every worthwhile career hitting record before his is over. And if the Yankees are dumb enough to listen to the critics and let him go this winter, whoever signs him will become an immediate World Series contender—despite how often the papers tell you that he's a playoff choker.

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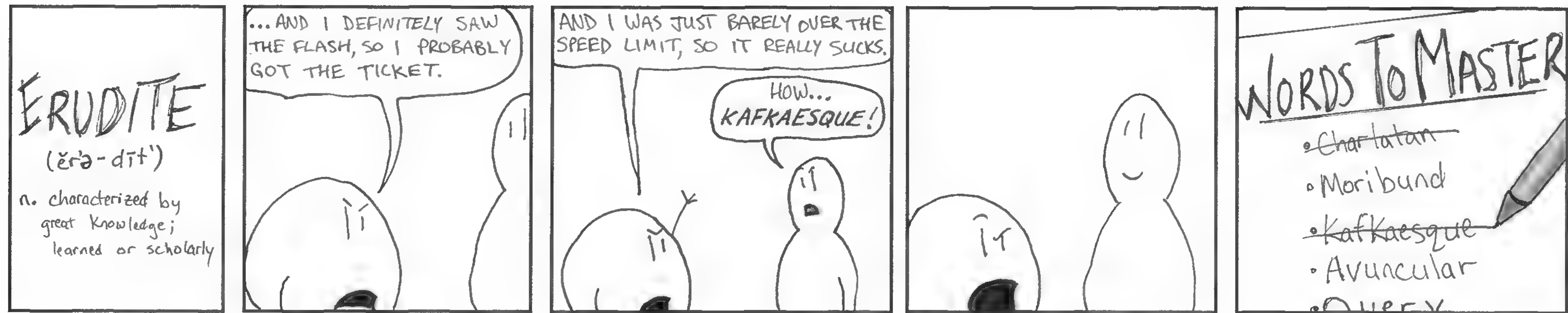
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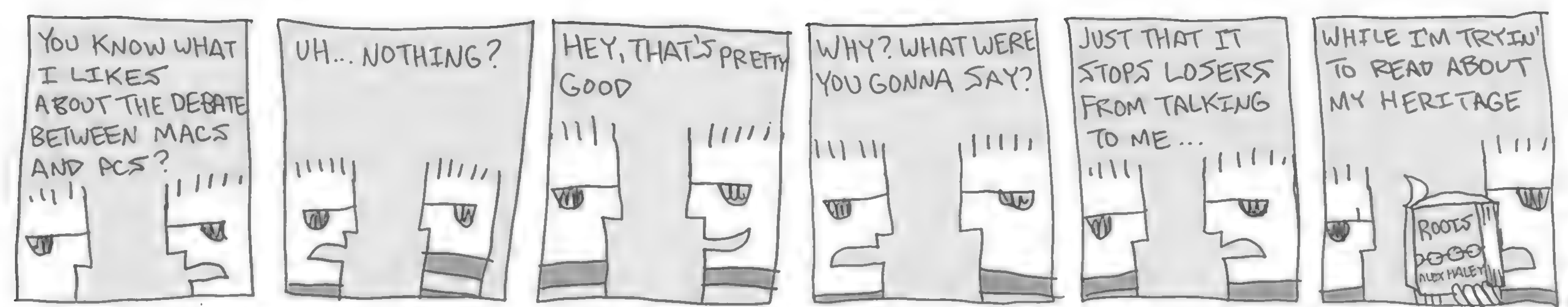
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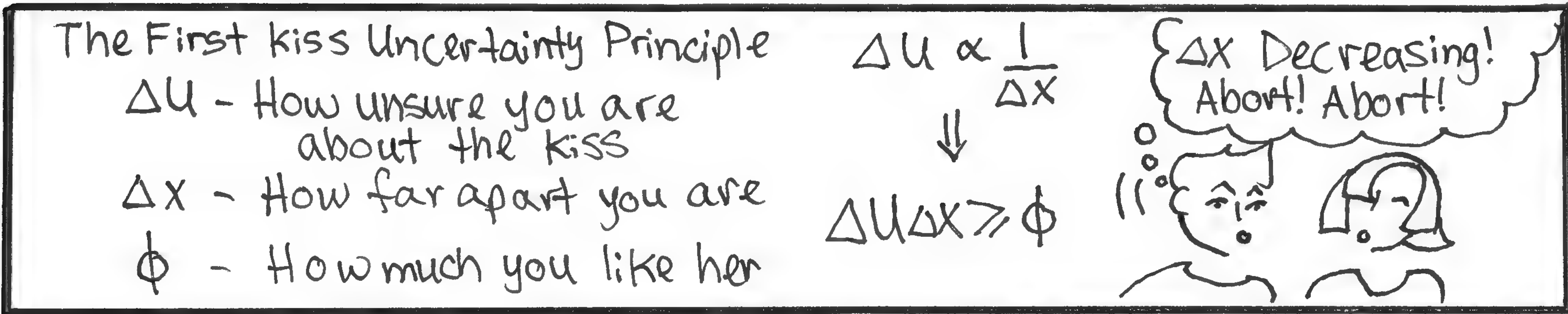
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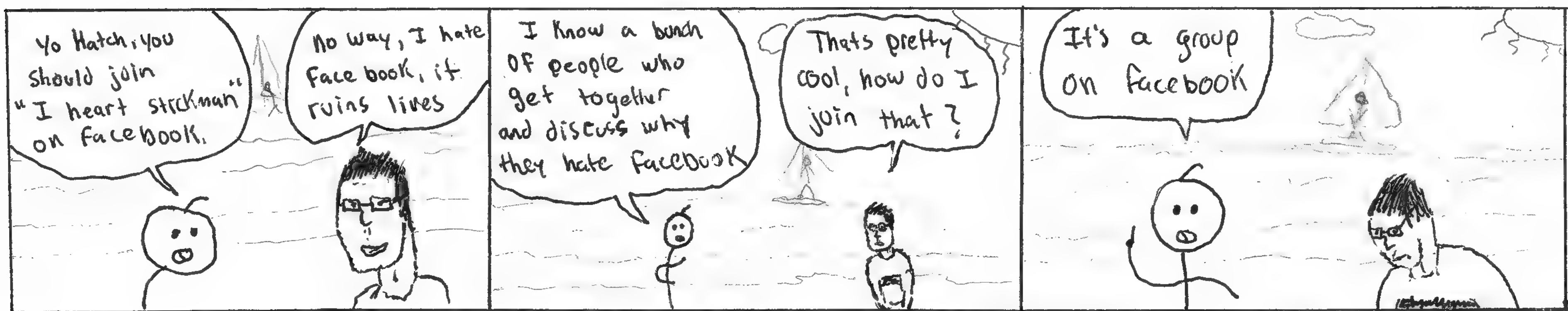
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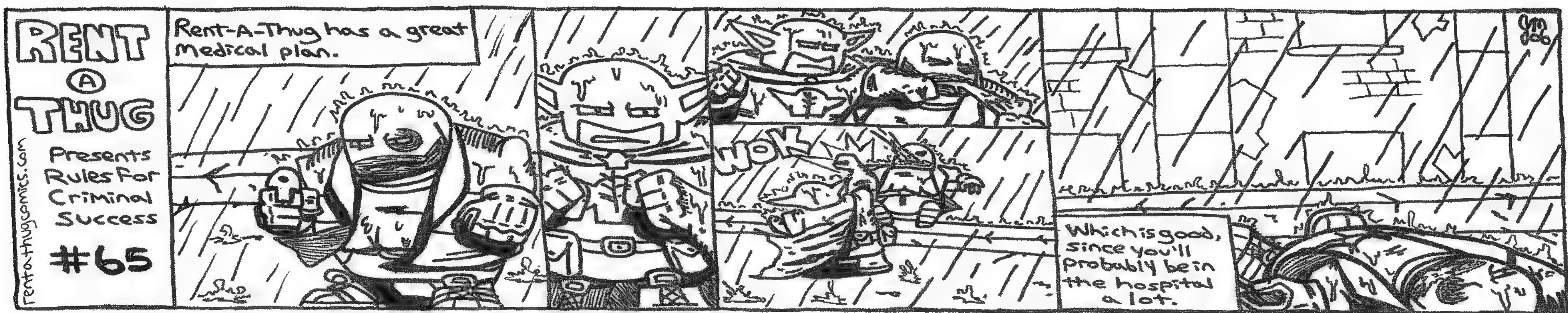
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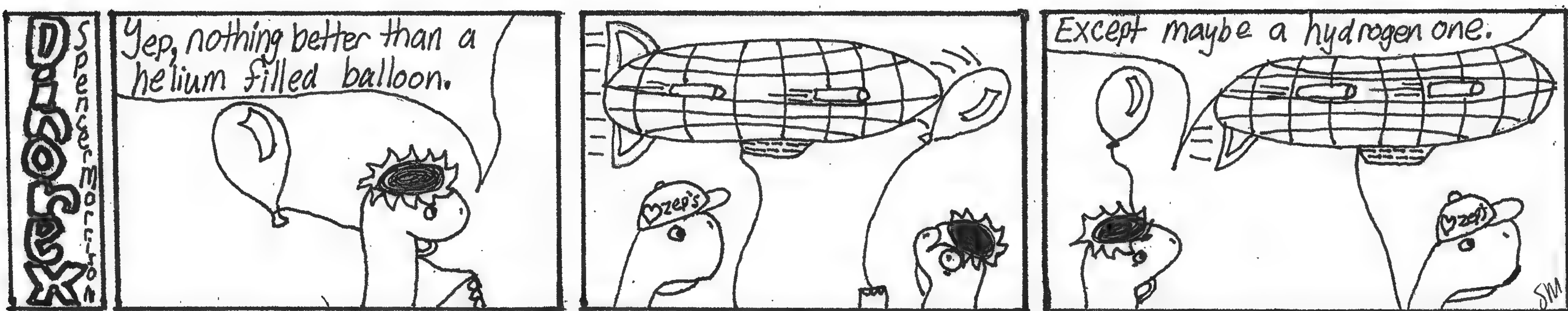
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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is burned direct, to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper and we owe her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of chance are Portair and The Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass.

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Award no substitute for research success—Stein

DA VINCI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the benefit that WalkAide has given, lack of funding almost ended the project. Initially, individual investors funded the product's development and production.

"Venture capitalists want a high return and a return pretty quickly," Stein explained. "They didn't see millions of dollars coming in. When they used up their money, they pulled the plug. That was pretty disappointing, and I was about ready to give up. But I'm stubborn and decided to go back one more time."

Stein's persistence paid off. With the help of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, an American company was found to invest in production and marketing of the WalkAide.

Corporate investment allowed useful application of the promising research. However, monetary limitations still present themselves.

Though it has been over six months since Health Canada approved WalkAide for sale, it takes time and money to train people to fit and maintain the machine for patients.

The technology contained is sophisticated and expensive. Each machine has its own microprocessor that allows it to be configured specifically for each individual—an important factor when considering widespread use.

Stein hopes that financial disadvantage won't exclude those who could really benefit from the technology.



LAURENSTIEGLITZ

WALK BOX This palm-sized device developed at the University of Alberta is allowing people with foot drop to walk again.

"We need to get Medicare to cover the costs in the States," he said. "Obviously, to spend several thousand dollars to get a device is an impediment to some. [WalkAide], we hope, will be covered by the provincial healthcare bodies in Canada."

In regards to the Da Vinci award that WalkAide garnered, Stein explained that it was simply a bonus that came after the major payoff of his work.

"That was just the icing on the cake," he said. "The main reward is seeing people that were having difficulty with a smile on their face and getting a better quality of life. Tens of thousands of people benefit from an idea that started as just that—as an idea."

Even with its success, reliability stimulating precisely the right nerve has been an issue for the machine. Therefore, Stein said there's room for improvement.

"One of the projects that is ongoing is a small implanted stimulator [...] . It has a coil so that you send a signal in as a radio wave that tells it when to stimulate and when not to."

The advancements don't stop there. Dr Stein's lab is in the early stages of a system that could perhaps restore mobility for paraplegics.

"We do have a couple [paraplegics] now that are walking," he said. "It's still limited, still slow, and still takes energy, and we are trying to figure out how to do it more efficiently to

make it practical."

That too is an exciting prospect for the research professor who is now semi-retired. Yet in the meantime, beneficiaries of the WalkAide have nothing but praise for the man behind the machine as well.

"Dr Stein is a gem of a fellow. I have the utmost respect and regard for him and for the work he has done. He's very understanding, careful, and thorough," Gordey said.

"There is going to come a day when I will want to walk my daughters down the aisle; he has made that possible," Jackson said. "He had an idea and brought it to fruition. It's incredible the vision that this gentleman has."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

As you may be aware, scientists have recently synthesized the first ever man-made life form.
If you could create a life form, what would it be?



Taryn Donald
Arts I



Kevin Meleskie
Business IV



Brennan Lafleur
Science IV



Melissa Pearce
Nursing III

"I'd make a person who could fly because you could get places more easily. It would be cooler and more fun. It would have wings—bat wings."

"You know that tiny hippo on those 'you shouldn't believe everything you see on TV' ads? I'd create that guy."

"The Ninja Turtles had a giant mosquito they'd ride around on. I can't remember its name, but that's what I'd create."

"I'd create an animal to write my nursing papers for me. It would have the ability to write perfect A+ papers, every time."



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SOME DON'T LIKE IT HOT David Hik has helped further environmental research on the north and south poles.

Hot future for Arctic researcher

David Hik’s work with International Polar Year has put the U of A on the map as a leading player in addressing issues afflicting Earth’s extremes

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

As significant ecological changes sweep the Arctic and Antarctic regions, the University of Alberta’s David Hik remains at the forefront of this scientific and cultural exploration into the polar extremes of the globe.

The U of A is heavily involved in current interdisciplinary projects due to the influences of Hik, who’s the executive director of the Canadian International Polar Year (IPY) Secretariat.

“IPY [is] kind of the grand daddy of international scientific cooperation and collaboration,” he explains.

Hik spends his days as a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, and is a Canada Research Chair in Northern Ecology. With support from the federal government, the U of A community, and various Aboriginal and non-governmental organizations, Hik has also been able to travel extensively and bring his research skills to remote Arctic areas as part of IPY.

His involvement with the project began unexpectedly while sitting on a parliamentary committee in Ottawa during a sabbatical.

“We were looking at these questions of renewing Canada’s capacity of investment in the Arctic, and IPY really became the tail that wagged the dog,” Hik says. “It became the event that we could hang a whole lot of the other issues we were discussing on.”

Hik recently returned from a voyage on the Canadian Coast Guard

Ship Sir Wilfred Laurier, where he led researchers through Canada’s northern islands to study the water column and visit with students and teachers in the Territories.

“I was pegged as the terrestrial oceanographer,” he jokes.

According to Hik, the importance of northern research and outreach, especially in Canada, can’t be underestimated. He cites shrinking ice and snow levels, as well as global warming, as two urgencies of IPY that are affecting things like natural resources, health, employment, and technology.

“Here we were seeing significant changes occurring that were affecting global atmosphere, the world oceans, the environment, [and] people.”

DAVID HIK
U OF A PROFESSOR AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE CANADIAN IPY

“Here we were seeing significant changes occurring that were affecting the global atmosphere, the world oceans, the environment, [and] people,” Hik says.

“The current estimate is that global sea level will rise somewhere between 20 and 100 cm this century—that’s huge.”

As Arctic sovereignty and security issues dominate headlines and the melting of the Northwest Passage becomes an inevitable reality, Hik’s research is designed to provide new information and outreach to address these problems. He stresses the importance of passing on accessible knowledge to Arctic communities and policy makers to better inform them on how to deal with these rapid changes.

Hik sees the U of A as a concrete force behind the success of IPY to date, citing the involvement of the University’s Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the goals of its northern strategy.

“This is very much a part of the history of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta faculty and students, and I’d like to say Administration as well,” Hik says. “It makes sense for the University of Alberta to take a lead and to help develop the partnerships that have contributed to making IPY a success.”

Hik emphasizes the success to date of the IPY in terms of local, national, and international involvement. However, he acknowledges that this is only the beginning.

“The Polar Year by its very definition is just a pulse of activity, which is a good thing,” Hik says. “But many of the issues that we’re addressing—issues of climate change, issues of sustainable development, issues of community health and well-being—these are all long term interests that Canada and the rest of the world has.”

which had been left behind. It’s a routine call on most days, but this particular item turned out to be a human skull, donated by a doctor to a local fraternity. The skull was eventually surrendered to 5-0 for proper disposal.

TNT IN THE EAS BUILDING

On the morning of 4 October, a Facilities Maintenance staff member observed a suspicious object resembling a pipe bomb in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Building. CSS and the Edmonton Police Service’s bomb squad were dispatched. An x-ray was taken of the pipe, at which time it was confirmed no explosive materials were present. The pipe was then released to the EPS for safe disposal.

SUGARRUSH

Nearing midnight on 4 October, Campus Security officers responded to a com-

plaint of an intoxicated male throwing doughnuts around the Lister Hall Marina. The suspect was identified and informed of proper dining hall etiquette.

NOT SO TOUGH WITHOUT HIS TOY

On the afternoon of 8 October, a taxi driver entered the CSS office and reported that a group of youths had flashed a handgun at him as they exited the Health Sciences LRT platform. As a call was placed to EPS, a 5-0 bike patrol member located the group heading towards Whyte Avenue and observed as one of them ditched an item in a nearby alleyway. Numerous EPS cars arrived immediately, lights and sirens ablaze, and the entire group was arrested at gunpoint. During the investigation, a replica handgun was located in the area, and criminal charges are pending against the suspects.

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DCA testing gets approved

Facing a lack of funding, an innovative and potentially groundbreaking new technique for treating cancer is entering preliminary human trials at the U of A

CAROLINE LEE
News Writer

Dr Evangelos Michelakis and his research team at the University of Alberta may hold the key to effective cancer treatment with the discovery of an innovative application of dichloroacetate (DCA), a generic drug traditionally used to treat metabolic and cardiovascular diseases.

"Cancer cells have a very different way of generating energy with very different mitochondria," Michelakis explained. "So, it looks like DCA only targets mitochondria that have been remodeled, while leaving normal mitochondria unaffected."

As published in the January 2007 edition of *Cancer Cell*, trials conducted on rats have indicated that DCA is capable of shrinking tumours without harming healthy, non-cancerous cells.

However, the applicability of these results to human cancer cells remains unknown. Human clinical trials are scheduled to begin immediately, as researchers now have sufficient funds to conduct their first trial—Phase II of a two-part clinical trial protocol—and have received approval from the local ethics committee and Health Canada. Phase I will involve a wider range of patients diagnosed with other forms of cancer to determine the maximal dosage of DCA that can be tolerated by an individual, but has yet to secure enough funding and is still awaiting approval from Health Canada.

According to Linda Webster, the manager of the DCA research project, two patients have already been enrolled in the trial, following a mass reaction from cancer patients hoping to be among the study's first 50 participants.

"We have had a huge response from all over the world, literally. I would say that we received over 1000 emails in the last couple of weeks and 800–900 phone calls that we have emptied off the DCA phone line," Webster said.

However, only patients from the Edmonton area are currently

being accepted due to limited funding and strict follow-up measures. Furthermore, eligibility is limited to patients with advanced brain cancer, including glioblastoma. Patients with such a condition have the worst prognoses among all cancers, as complete regression usually occurs within one to five years.

"If we start somewhere, we start with the most desperate ones. In the case that DCA works, you save a few more lives," Michelakis explained.

Strict requirements have forced Webster to turn down numerous cancer patients both locally and internationally. Even so, she said that rejected patients have generally been very understanding and satisfied with the fact that an alternative treatment is being examined. However, frustration in such a situation is inevitable.

"There certainly has been frustra-

"If we start somewhere, we start with the most desperate ones. In the case that DCA works, you save a few more lives."

DR EVANGELOS MICHELAKIS
DCA RESEARCHER

tion, but that's to be expected. Most of them want you to listen to their stories if nothing else," Webster said.

Despite limitations, cautious optimism is prevalent. There's evidence that DCA may be applicable to various forms of cancer, such as breast and lung. Therefore, if this trial produces successful results, similar protocols—such as Phase I—will be conducted on other forms of cancer and with different dosages or combinations of drugs.

Funding has been a problem for the DCA team, as pharmaceutical companies have been reluctant to support the research due to the fact that the drug can't be patented. But with such success, Michelakis hopes more cash will follow.

"Though we had this huge fundraising and support from the U of A, we need much more for the next step. We hope that if the trial shows something promising, then the fundraising will explode even more."

However, with the discovery of a promising treatment, some cancer patients have desperately turned to self-medication with DCA. Already, a Californian man has had portions of his website shut down after the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) discovered that the man was selling DCA to patients. A clinic in Toronto is also currently selling DCA, leading Michelakis to believe that the Canadian system isn't reacting or responding appropriately to this violation of ethical conduct.

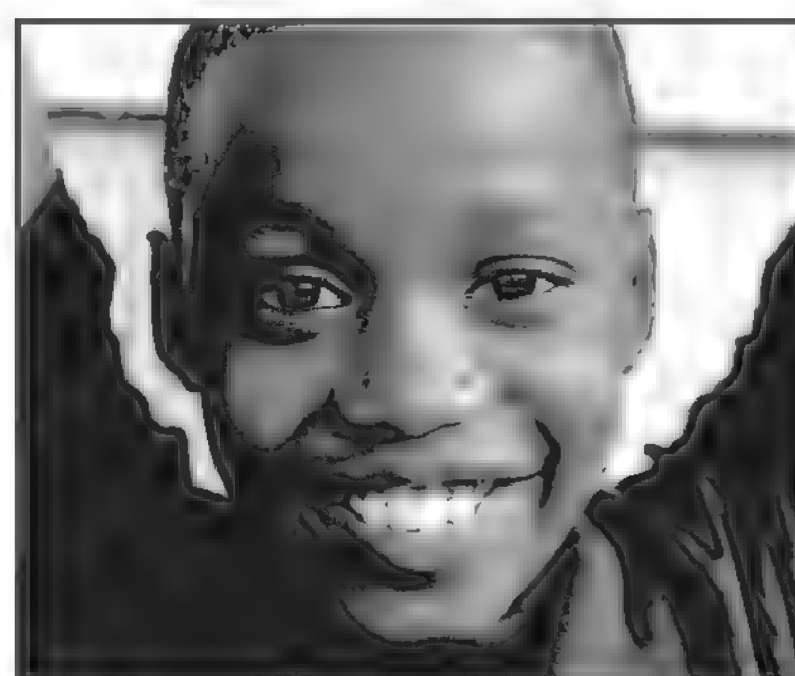
"People are targeting desperate and fragile people and making business off of them by selling the drugs. The providers are telling patients it's not their responsibility if the drug hurts them. Of course, if you are desperate, you're going to sign everything and pay as much as they ask you. They are selling it to make money, and that's tragic," he said.

According to Webster, there are major problems with the self-medication of DCA, including the fact that patients have no guarantee about the purity or even the identity of the drugs they're purchasing from unauthorized sources.

In addition, Michelakis and his research team don't have conclusive evidence about how effective the drug will be on human cancer cells: while DCA has been safely used in previous treatments with other diseases, the body of someone with cancer is very different than a normal one. DCA may also cause patients to experience unsteady vision and numbness in the fingers, and peripheral neuropathy and damage to the liver are other possible side-effects.

According to Michelakis, such problems are amplified by the fact that they're not under professional supervision.

"It doesn't make sense to self-medicate without knowing if it is working or if you are hurting yourself," Michelakis said.



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Huge collection will further legitimize science fiction research

DONATION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Doug Barbour, professor emeritus in the Department of English and Film Studies, predicted that the collection would offer a wealth of research material.

"Science fiction especially has become an academic subject of some importance," he said.

When Barbour was a professor at the University, he taught 400-level courses in popular culture on science fiction and postmodernism, 20th-century fantasy, and even 20th-century vampires. Today, he pointed out, PhD dissertations are written and academic conferences are held on science fiction.

"It's become quite an important field," he said.

The fanzines included in Cuthbert's collection will, according to Barbour,

be a "gold mine" for students of the cultures of fandom and science fiction. Barbour also stressed that social studies research will reveal the impact of this genre on people as a whole.

"You will find that, [when] a huge number of the people who went into science and then ended up at places like NASA or working in scientific careers started, their interest was first formed by reading science fiction," Barbour explained. "A number of the people who ended up in the 60s as young men working in the aerospace industry were people who all said, 'Well, it all started with reading science fiction.' They were all the ones who said, 'We knew we'd get to the moon.'"

In the 1970s, science fiction fans in Winnipeg would gather at Cuthbert's house every weekend to share their

common interests. One of these members, Randy Reichardt, is now a librarian at the University of Alberta, and travelled along with Distad nine years ago to first express interest in acquiring the collection.

"I gasped a little because I thought I knew how to pack a place with books," Distad recalled of his first visit.

Reichardt noted that there have been some questions being raised about why the collection isn't staying in Winnipeg, but he said he felt that had been answered by the fact that neither the University of Winnipeg nor University of Manitoba have the facilities to manage a donation of this size.

However, Reichardt pointed out that there's a "fairly robust science fiction community" in Edmonton, adding that most people "are really happy that it's going to be kept in one place."

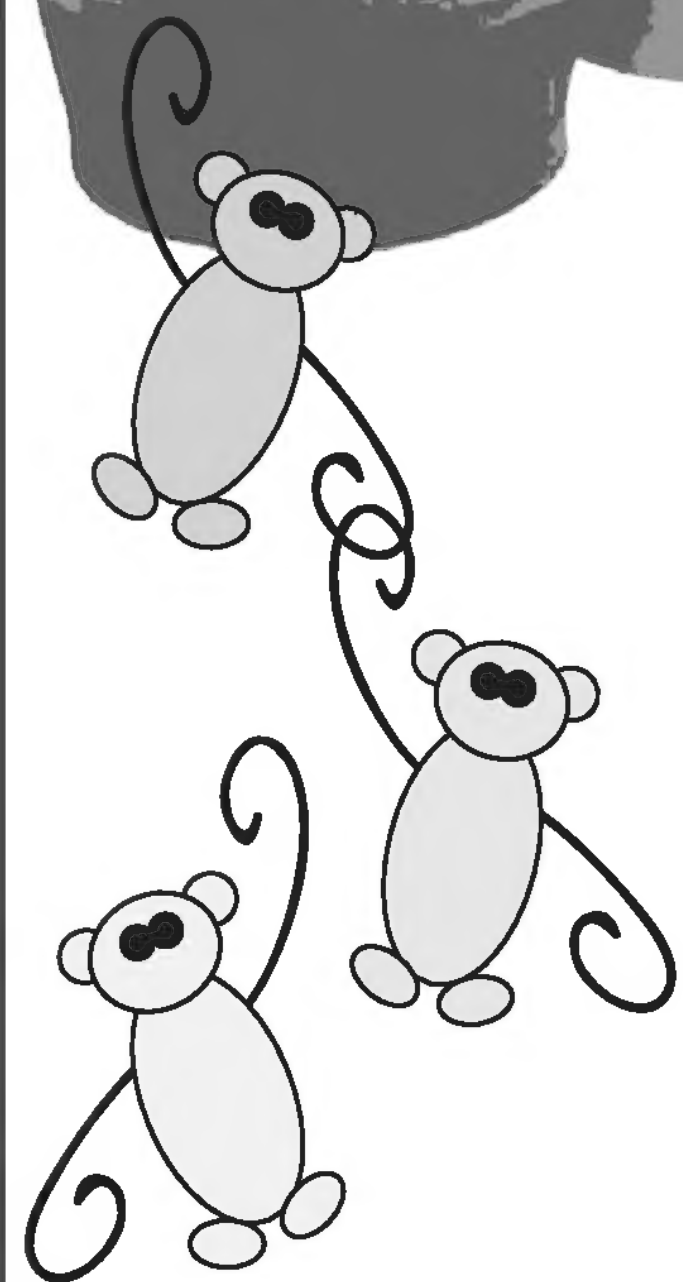
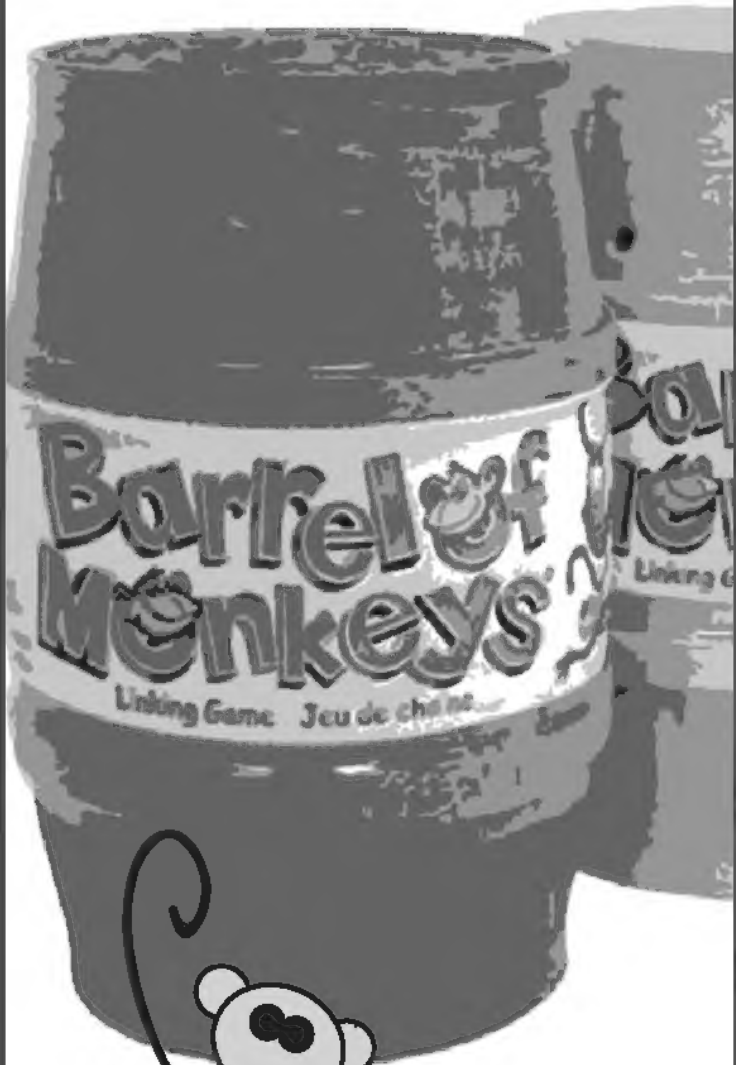


COURTESY OF RANDY REICHARDT

OTHER-WORLD COLLECTION Sci-fi books await their transfer to the U of A.

FACT

The Gateway's first news editor was also the inventor of Barrel of Monkeys. [citation needed]



Rumour has it this year's editors are in the process of inventing a Barrel of Real Ebola Monkeys.

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AT 3PM. 3-04 SUB.**

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

ADULT LIFE IN THE 20TH CENTURY A study has shown that blowing out more candles doesn't equate to adulthood.

We're taking longer to grow up

A study has shown that the social and economic situations 30-year-old Canadians face today are equal to those that 25-year-olds from the 1970s had

DAN LEMAY
The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP)—According to a recent study, Canadians take longer to “grow up” than they did 30 years ago. The study, published in *Canadian Social Trends* magazine, is based on census data collected between 1971 and 2001, and compared the ages at which Canadians have finished school, moved out on their own, married, and had children. An increase across the board was found in the average age for all of these key life transitions.

In short, the study suggests that a 30-year-old in 2001 was roughly equivalent in terms of life transitions to a 25-year-old in the 1970s. In 1971,

around half of 22-year-olds in Canada were married, and one quarter of them already had children. In 2001, less than one in eleven 22-year-olds had children, and only a fifth lived with a partner.

The numbers of both men and women in Canadian universities has also increased since 1971. Only seven per cent of women and 13 per cent of men in the 1970s completed postsecondary education; by 2001, these figures had risen to 29 per cent and 25 per cent respectively.

But Rita Bruce, a third-year University of Manitoba science student, didn't find the conclusions surprising.

“As university is becoming the new educational standard, more people in

general are going to university,” she said.

The study also showed a jump in the numbers of young adults living with their parents. In 1971, only 22 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women were living at home when they turned 25. In 2001, the numbers of young adults still living with their families had increased to 40 per cent for men and 27 per cent for women.

The study speculates that the reasons behind more young adults choosing to live at home longer are primarily economic. Since the 1970s, the labour market's demand for those with a university degree has doubled, while at the same time shrinking for those with a high school diploma or less.

Tolerance event organizers saddened to find racist graffiti on their posters

ALLYSON MCCORMACK
The Aquinian

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Posters advertising an event about tolerance at Fredericton's St Thomas University were defaced with racist graffiti on 30 September.

The posters featuring the event's host, Andrew Saa Gbongbor—a Sierra Leonean student—were vandalized along with other posters on campus featuring visible minorities.

Paul Cormier, the program director of SHOUT (Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance), was contacted after posters with Gbongbor's picture on them were found defaced.

“The next day, we found posters for other groups with Africans on them defaced as well, so it was across-the-board targeting,” Cormier said.

“I felt complete and utter disgust,” he added. “I can't say that I was shocked. I know racism exists in every community across Canada and across the world, really. So there wasn't shock,

but there was just disgust; sickness to the stomach.”

“This is in no way tolerated at St Thomas,” said Jeffrey Carleton, the University's director of communications and media relations.

“This is where I was destined to come after Africa, and I'm going to live here no matter what difficulties I'm facing.”

ANDREW SAA GBONGBOR
SIERRA LEONEAN STUDENT

“We want to shine as much light on the situation as possible, to get under it, and make sure it never happens again,” he said.

Carleton said that it was the first incident of its kind that has been reported on the St Thomas campus of

which he is aware.

Saa Gbongbor noted he was also shaken when a friend told him about the posters.

“I'm annoyed,” he said. “I didn't expect anyone to do this—I'm just trying to get my word out there.”

But the incident hasn't discouraged Saa Gbongbor, who is in his third year of study.

“It does nothing to me—I don't even feel racism,” he said.

“If you are racist with me, I am always just smiling at you because you're not going to hurt me; I don't care. I have tons of friends from the university, and from the community—it's fine.

“This is where I was destined to come after Africa and I'm going to live here no matter what difficulties I'm facing,” he added.

Chow Wang, a 40-year-old resident, has been arrested in connection with the incident. Police credited campus security cameras for helping to lead them to an arrest.

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Front page ads are totally bush league

ARE THE PASSENGERS IN THE FRONT SEAT MORE important than the ones in the back? This is a question the *Edmonton Sun* felt was important to pose to its readers last Friday. More important than, say, showing the entirety of a photo depicting Jarret Stoll scoring against the San Jose Sharks in a shootout.

Flip open the front page and you'll find the true message—an advertisement for the new Hyundai Sonata, which apparently has so many airbags, it's like living inside the Stay-Puft Marshmallow man. To the right of that, showing up late like a non-Kenyan marathoner, is the cover as it was originally intended. If you consider the page bearing the ad to be merely a "wrapper" for the newspaper, then the *Sun* has done the impressive feat of putting ads *underneath* other ads.

The *Sun* is not the only offender in this respect. On Friday, the *National Post* also felt like selling out to the Korean automaker, covering up half of a photo of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun working towards a long term peace. This may be, to understate the matter, kind of a big deal. On the other hand, when you can get a Sonata starting at \$22 295, nuclear disarmament deals can wait.

Advertisements on the front page are nothing new: both the *Journal* and *Sun* have been running ads along the bottom of the cover for years. The act of covering up newspaper content, however, makes this practice of far greater concern. The front page of a newspaper—specifically, "above the fold," if there is one—is a place for the newspaper's most important content, be that a hot photo, top story, or both. Placing an advertisement here is a tacit admission by the publisher that this paid message is more important than anything else that's happening that day.

The oft-maligned *Dose*—thankfully now just an online celebrity rumourzine—as well as Edmonton's more recent threesome of free dailies, are well-known for this practice. When smaller publications do it, it's merely poor taste, but when larger paid-for publications like the *Post* and *Journal* start selling out, it cheapens the relationship between the publisher and the reader. Subscribers pay for these papers, and therefore have the right to expect a higher standard.

Advertising, in its most basic sense, is simply a method used to get a message out to the public. Newspapers can use advertising revenue to keep the purchase price of the paper reasonable, forming a symbiotic relationship that is useful so long as the boundaries between business and editorial content are respected. When the business side begins to infringe on content, it's time for the publisher to step up and restore the balance. Hyundai isn't to blame—they're merely doing what companies do best: generating interest in a product they are selling with the aim of increasing profits.

Print media has seen various technologies threaten its supremacy over the years, be it radio, television, or the Internet. Print media survives by specializing in what it does best: in-depth coverage and analysis, presented in a well-designed layout with professional-quality photography. *Dose* failed due to its sound bite-style stories and ADHD-inducing layout. If major dailies like the *Post* keep running what essentially amounts to an Internet-style click-through ad on the front page, they may very well be next on the chopping block.

MIKE OTTO
Photo Editor

They've got their man

WHEN A MOUNTIE IS KILLED IN THE LINE OF duty, people understandably listen. And read. And watch. A manhunt is launched by the authorities and the public alike, with the killer's face promptly displayed by every major news outlet in the country.

Or, in the case of Emrah Bulatci, the lead suspect in the killing of Constable Christopher Worden, "accused killer." Of course, he may well turn out to be the Mounties' guy, but in the eye of the law, he's innocent until convicted in court. With his image already burned into the collective mind of the public, however, he's as good as guilty—let's just hope that they've really got their guy.

ADAM GAUMONT
Editor-in-Chief

I knew that Fire Sale at
River Valley Cycle
was too good to be true!



MIKE KENDRICK

LETTERS

Not all women are gold miners, Lettner

What an enlightening piece by Graham Lettner (re: "I ain't saying she's a gold digger," 4 October). I assume it was done with the intent of causing every female on campus to throw their paper to the ground and stamp their feet. Yet while I do believe Mr Lettner was exaggerating to cause a reaction, I still feel the need to defend my sex.

Perhaps in the '60s there were women who went to university to find a husband, but I'd like to think that we've progressed a little since then. In fact, I would say that our "survival smarts" would have more to do with getting a degree and job than finding the man with the largest wallet.

As for every man needing to be marriage material, I think a night at any bar can support the conclusion that girls are out looking for a good time just as much as guys. If you're willing to draw those conclusions about the ladies, then let's indulge in some male-related stereotypes as well, like how guys are just looking for girls who will put out, or that guys will run in the face of a girl who actually plans on having her own life and career after marriage.

So while I thank Mr Lettner for his deep insights into female behaviours, I think his theories might still need some tweaking.

KRISTEN FLATH
Business V

RATT not worth bad service or faulty elevators

You'd think that service in RATT would've improved since the Students' Union pulled the majority of their operations out of the Powerplant, but the service at SUB's top-floor bar has only seemed to get worse since the semester started.

Now, this isn't meant to knock the SU or even RATT's employees, but I think everyone who frequents the establishment can agree that something needs to be done to keep students frequenting the mediocre bar.

Every time I go there, the service and food are horrible. It makes me wonder why I keep going back, and if it weren't for the convenient location, I wouldn't. When I'm hungry, I'd like to be able to get fries and a burger that aren't cold—but that's all RATT seems to serve.

The only saving grace is that I might not even make it to RATT because of the shitty elevators. Once, a friend of mine got stuck in one of the elevators for an hour, just because she wanted to go meet her friends for a beer. Now it's one thing for a beer to cost \$5, but to cost an hour of entrapment in a bloody elevator is not cool.

If you're able to get there, you'll either face a near empty room or one that's packed wall to wall. Still, the service will be identical. Identically bad. And you'll wish that the elevator ended up plummeting into SUB's basement.

The sad thing about all this is that

students aren't demanding that anything be done about the most convenient of bars. Their bar.

DEREK EDMUNDSON
Arts III

Friendly neighbourhood Dave reminds you to vote

Though municipal politics traditionally has little to do with post-secondary education, it's very important to remember that the next city council will be seeing through the first leg of the Universal Bus Pass and will be critical in creating more affordable student housing in Edmonton.

So, get out and vote on Monday October 15!

DAVE COURNOYER
(VP External emeritus)

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication. And if you've bothered to read this far, then this air high-five is for you, my friend. Enjoy it, you fucking earned it.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

RATT doesn't need to hold hands of drunks

My response is *no*, RATT is not responsible (re: "Is RATT accountable in on-campus accident?" 11 January) Wake up, this is 1994. We are *all* well educated on the effects of drugs, including alcohol. We *all* have freedom of choice, and if we choose to drink to the point of falling down and whacking our heads, that is our choice and that means we are responsible, and no one else. It's time that we learned to take responsibility for our actions. Just because they offer an intoxicating drug does not make that establishment responsible for the actions or stupidity of its patrons. To refer to Shakespeare, in *Henry V* spoke of personal responsibility, saying that a king is not responsible for the thoughts or endings of his subjects, nor the father responsible for actions of his son; likewise, RATT is not responsible for a kid who cannot hold his liquor and/or make it home.

SHANNON ENNS
13 January, 1994

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Don't celebrate bloody revolutionary

It's been 40 years since Che Guevara's death, and we seem to have forgotten the brutal man that he was in favour of an over-romanticized symbol of rebellion



LUIS FELIPE JARAMILLO

Posters announcing events around Campus are constantly changing, and I seldom pay attention to them, but last week, I came across one that caught my attention. It read: "Resistance and Revolution: Che Guevara 40-year Commemoration." This event will take place from 11–13 October, and is composed of several events, the last of which is shocking: it's called "Celebrating Che," and is apparently a big party that includes a DJ.

How can people celebrate, have fun, and rejoice while commemorating a criminal? I couldn't stop asking myself: what are they celebrating? All the people he murdered? Che Guevara executed hundreds of people without trial because they didn't agree with him. He committed countless war crimes and left behind him a legacy of left-wing guerrillas that have slaughtered thousands of people.

I came from Colombia not too many years ago, and for a while, my family and I were victims of these guerrillas that also "celebrate" Che—guerrillas that preach his legacy. Many people don't understand that in Latin America, for the most part, he's been more than a nice face on a

T-shirt—he's been a motive to kill. Guevara's followers should think twice about whether giving cult status to a murderer who didn't believe in diversity of ideas is a good way to promote democratic values. Democracy can't be promoted by idolizing a man who believed that turning himself into a "cold-blooded killing machine" was the perfect way to conduct a revolution.

Celebrating the death of a man responsible for war crimes and hundreds of executions without trial is not a matter of being left- or right-wing—it's a matter of right and wrong.

Most people either ignore or are ignorant of the brutal individual that was hidden underneath the striking images seen in the film *The Motorcycle Diaries*. Beneath that young dreamer, there was a killing machine who failed at everything he attempted.

Che failed as a doctor, as an economist, as a politician, as a guerrilla fighter, and it could be argued that he failed in his attempt to end capitalism, as it's the very capitalism that he

wanted to destroy that's now making millions out of his image, selling t-shirts, mugs, bumper stickers, flags, hats, key chains, and anything else you can stamp his face on.

Due to that capitalist hunger that he now indirectly promotes, it's normal in wealthier nations to see both the youth as well as old hippies sporting Che T-shirts as a sign of revolution, anti-imperialism, and as a general way of showing disagreement with the status quo.

Mike Tyson has a Che tattoo on his abdomen; Diego Maradona has one in his arm; Thierry Henry, too, occasionally wears a Che T-shirt. This is the image that these people and many others have of the revolutionary. All they see or care to view him as is nothing more than an innocent image of rebellion.

But people need to know where to draw the line. Celebrating the death of a man responsible for war crimes and hundreds of executions without trial is not a matter of being left- or right-wing—it's a matter of right and wrong.

So keep wearing your T-shirts and fashionably protesting the status quo—but don't throw a party for someone who's responsible for numerous atrocities in several countries. If we continue to misinterpret history in this fashion, ten years from now, we'll be celebrating the great freedom fighter Osama Bin Laden, and passing out T-shirts with his face on them in Quad.

Time for us to admit to our oil addictions



BRIAN GOULD

For something as important as energy royalties, the debate has been incredibly limited and myopic. Sure, there have been enough columns, letters to editors, and full-page advertisements to rival the royalty review panel's 104-page report. However, there hasn't been much talk of the social and environmental problems caused by the oil industry and how we could apply this 20 per cent increase in royalties to help solve these problems at the same time.

It's only fitting that a debate about oil and money should focus solely on squeezing out every last drop. On one side is the middle-class taxpayer, eyes wide and sparkling with the prospect of tapping into the oil industry's huge profit margins. On the other is "Big Oil," clutching its profits tightly and threatening to take its money elsewhere, collapsing the economy on their way out.

In the end, the government will settle on whatever rate they think will get the highest immediate returns, and we'll go back to mindlessly consuming. Economists will tout this as a triumph of capitalism over intervention, but it really just illustrates the shortcomings of the greedy invisible hand. However, we the consumers aren't free of blame: an old adage states that you vote with your money, and if that's the case, the election's rigged, and every litre we buy is a vote for the oilsands.

"Big Oil isn't just some shady board of villains, it's you and me—the addicted users. Right now, by placing our hopes in biofuels as a solution, we're reflecting what we're telling the oil companies: 'protect the environment if you can, but protect my wallet first, and don't make me give up my car.'"

Turnout's in the high 90s, and it's a landslide every time.

In the end, you get what you pay for. The oil companies don't actually make the oil, but be assured your money does get spent. What you see is gasoline, but what you pay for is strip mining, polluting refineries, and a kaleidoscope of emissions.

There's also no such thing as gouging at the pumps. High prices over long weekends are a simple case of supply and demand. Don't like it? Don't buy it. Lower prices trade our future for a few bucks today, just like our current breakneck pace will only hurt us in the long run. Put yourself in the shoes of the oil executive with the end of the free ride potentially only 30 years off and the realities of the market to deal with.

Big Oil isn't just some shady board of villains, it's you and me—the addicted users. Right now, by placing our hopes in biofuels as a solution, we're reflecting what we're telling the oil companies: "protect the environment if you can, but protect my wallet first, and don't make me give up my car." We're only pretending to care about the environment, and the oil companies are playing along, feeding us lies about how biofuels will solve all our problems and how they're working on it right now.

Now is the time to force the oil companies and addicts to feel the cost of their choices. The report recommends

breaking royalties down into wet, dry, sweet, sour, heavy, light, shallow, deep, high-volume, low-volume, and more to try to squeeze every last cent out. Each has an environmental impact, so logically, the board should recommend that any fees be applied to this area.

Unfortunately, this is a process driven by greed and not logic, so the recommendation is a flat fee of ten cents per barrel equivalent. Not only is this a minuscule amount, but it implies that oil and natural gas create the same emissions, that strip mining is the same as drilling, and that all refining processes are created equal. This is blatantly false, and ignoring the data we already have makes no sense—unless, of course, you're blinded by the glittering dollar signs.

Since the board lumped agriculture, mining, and forestry in with energy, we now know how much they're telling the government the environment is worth: \$75 million. This is nothing compared to the royalty money which will only serve to propagate our existing oil-dependent society. This pittance is then to be spent on "proactive, multi-stakeholder managed research and innovation programs directed to promote a well-thought-out future."

So while they're planning on thinking about a more secure future, we'll continue guzzling oil, and nothing changes. I feel better already.

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